

Hafa Adai!

Trial for former BMV director now set for August. PAGE 3

Law enforcers kick off Public Safety Awareness Month. PAGE 5

\$1

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 86  
**TUESDAY**, MAY 2, 2023  
[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)  
[www.facebook.com/saipantribune](https://www.facebook.com/saipantribune)

## Teen swimmer, 14, still missing

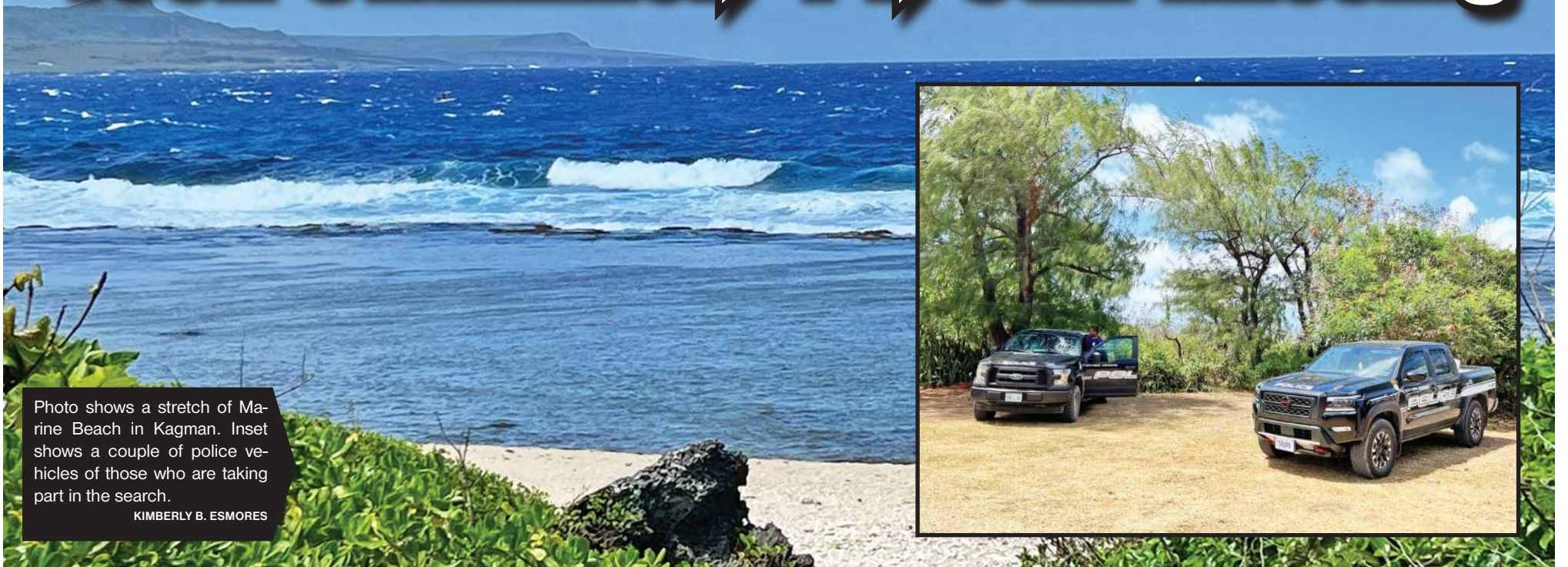


Photo shows a stretch of Marine Beach in Kagman. Inset shows a couple of police vehicles of those who are taking part in the search.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
[kimberly\\_esmores@saipantribune.com](mailto:kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

The 14-year-old swimmer who was dragged out to sea at Marine Beach in Kagman last Saturday remains missing and the search for him continues.

Local and federal search and rescue teams went back to Marine Beach yesterday to resume the search for 14-year-old Bradley Delos Santos, who was swept out to sea last Saturday following a beach day gone wrong.

Agencies who came out to

See TEEN on Page 4

## Car crash kills one, hurts another

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
[kimberly\\_esmores@saipantribune.com](mailto:kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety continues to investigate the fatal car crash in

Kannat Tabla over the weekend that claimed the life of a 44-year-old man.

According to DPS spokesperson Fred Sato, the crash remains under investigation and

DPS will release additional information as the investigation progresses.

The fatal car crash along Chalan Monsignor Guerrero road in Kannat Tabla occurred last Saturday, April 29. DPS has chosen not to identify the victim as of press time.

DPS, in a press release last  
See CAR on Page 4

## 'CUC can no longer be a sacrificial lamb'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
[ferdie\\_delatorre@saipantribune.com](mailto:ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

Acting Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Betty G. Terlaje said Friday that CUC can no longer be the sacrificial lamb as it is the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s obligation to work out their receivables so they can pay CUC

their unpaid utility billings.

At the Senate joint meeting between the Health, Education, and Welfare Committee, and Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications Committee, Sen. Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan) raised the point that CHCC appears to be making CUC the sacrificial lamb. She pointed  
See CUC on Page 4



Terlaje



## Palacios submits \$115.4M proposed budget for FY24

» Governor proposes new revenue stream, reinstatement of MVA Hotel Occupancy Tax

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
[ferdie\\_delatorre@saipantribune.com](mailto:ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

File photo shows Gov. Arnold I. Palacios working at his desk.  
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios submitted to the Legislature yesterday a proposed \$115.4-million budget for the government for fiscal year 2024, which is \$786,532 less than

See PALACIOS on Page 4

## INSIDE



### BUSINESS

New Midea Appliances, an authorized seller of China's No. 1 appliance brand, has opened a showroom.

PAGE 11



### NATION

A widening manhunt for a gunman who shot five neighbors continues coming up empty.

PAGE 12



### ASIA

President Joe Biden is set to host President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. of the Philippines for talks.

PAGE 13



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

**'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN**  
Days until  
**'touchback rule' takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:**  
**151**



**GOT A NEWS TIP?**

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com)



## Local

## Torres asks High Court to reconsider Kingman's admission

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The defense team of former governor Ralph DLG Torres in his pending criminal case with the Superior Court has asked the CNMI Supreme Court to reconsider the pro hac vice (or “for this pur-

pose only”) admission of special prosecutor James Robert Kingman.

Torres defense team—attorneys Viola Alepuyo, Victorino DLG Torres, Anthony Aguon, and Matthew Holley—has asked the CNMI Supreme Court to reconsider Kingman's pro

hac vice admission to the CNMI Bar because the application for his admission “is materially deficient.”

Torres' team argues that the deficiencies include failure to serve Torres with notice of the pro hac vice application as mandated by Supreme Court rules.

“Mr. Torres did not receive any notice of the application from the applicant, the Office of the Attorney General, or the Supreme Court prior to granting of the pro hac vice application. This material deficiency is enhanced by the fact that Mr. Torres was not served with either the pro hac vice application, or the order granting it. Mr. Torres only received those documents af-

ter the application was filed and granted by the Supreme Court, when the local media reported on it. Mr. Torres was also not given any opportunity to argue the merits of the application,” said the motion.

Other deficiencies were failure to articulate why the Office of Attorney General requires Kingman's representation, the application allegedly fails to comply with the sworn affida-

vit requirement, and that pro hac vice is not the appropriate admissions rule for a special prosecutor in a criminal case.

The OAG hired Kingman, a private attorney from Texas, to lead the prosecution against Torres in his pending criminal case.

Chief Justice Alexandro Castro granted Kingman's application for pro hac vice on March 6, 2023.

## May is Historic Preservation Month

Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, in his capacity as acting governor yesterday, proclaimed the month of May as Historic Preservation Month in a ceremony at one of the more historic sites on Saipan—the old Japanese police substation on Isley Field near the Saipan airport.

Joining Apatang at the proclamation signing were Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Mary S. Sablan, Historic Preservation Office administrator Rita Chong, DCCA, HPO, local dignitaries, Cabinet officials, and members of the community.

Apatang thanked HPO and DCCA for their work in preserving our historical

sites in the CNMI and urged all residents to recognize the importance of historic preservation and work toward a greater understanding of our history and cultures.

This year's Historic Preservation Month theme is “People Saving Places.”

The proclamation states that the rich and diverse cultural heritage of the CNMI is represented by a vast number of archaeological and historical sites, historic buildings, and landscapes that have been discovered and recorded through the CNMI.

“Protection and preservation of these sites, buildings, and landscapes provide educational, scientific, and economic benefits for the CNMI

citizens. Historic preservation is an effective tool for managing growth, revitalizing neighborhoods, fostering local pride, and maintaining community character while enhancing livability. It is important to understand the role of history in our lives to appreciate the contributions made by individuals who preserve the heritage that shapes us as a people,” states part of the proclamation.

In fulfilling its mandates, the Historic Preservation Office partners with other government agencies, private companies, archaeologists, historians, students, and private citizens in enhancing archaeology and historic preservation. *(Saipan Tribune)*



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang proclaims the month of May as Historic Preservation Month in a ceremony at the old Japanese police substation on Isley Field yesterday.

MAXIMIZE YOUR BUSINESS EXPOSURE

# ADVERTISE

with us!

Hafa Adai  
**Saipan Tribune**  
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

**Creative, analytic and articulate**  
people working together to provide you an ad  
design **that sells.**

saipantribune.com  
saipantribune  
saipantribuneofficial

Call 670.235-8747



# Trial for former BMV director now set for August

## NMI first responders undergo disability-sensitive trainings



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities Assistive Technology program manager Jo Tudela conducts an exercise with the participants of the First Responder Training Series.

The University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at Northern Marianas College, in partnership with the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities and Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc., recently held the First Responder Training Series on April 26, 2023.

The training provided disability-sensitive training to CNMI first responders, with the goal of creating a more inclusive and accessible CNMI by equipping first responders with tools to support and guide individuals with disabilities.

The training covered various topics, including disability rights, communication tips, and assistive technology resources, and saw participation from the Department of Public Safety, Department of Corrections, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

This activity also featured retired U.S. Coast Guard captain Daryl Schaffer of

the University of Alaska Fairbanks, who presented on "Disabilities in Disaster Situations: How a Rescuer handles what they encounter."

The presentation targeted emergency medical service educators and policy-makers, individuals and advocacy groups for those with disabilities, and emergency professionals. Schaffer's presentation focused on addressing the impact in mass rescue operations during large-scale disasters on individuals with disabilities, and provided steps for re-leveling of expectations, addressed the misunderstanding in application of triage and crisis medical protocols, and how to recognize and mitigate the light switch fallacy.

"The First Responder Training Series is an essential initiative to ensure the safety and wellbeing of everyone in the CNMI community, and the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at Northern Marianas College is proud to have taken part in it," said NMC UCEDD Director Ei-

leen Babauta said.

The First Responder Training Series is one of many initiatives undertaken by the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at Northern Marianas College to create a more inclusive and accessible CNMI. The event was well-received and drew appreciation from participants.

"As a first responder, it's crucial to have a deep understanding of the needs and rights of individuals with disabilities," said CNMI HSEM Community Emergency Response Team coordinator Steven Aguon. "This training provided by NMC-UCEDD is invaluable in equipping us with the knowledge and skills to better serve and protect our community, including the most vulnerable populations. I am grateful for this opportunity to learn and grow as a professional."

For more information on the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at Northern Marianas College, visit <https://www.marianas.edu/>. (NMC)

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The jury trial for the former director of the Department of Public Safety's Bureau of Motor Vehicles has been tentatively continued to August.

According to an order issued by District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona over the weekend, Juana Deleon Guerrero's trial, which was initially set for May 23, has been reset to Aug. 29, pursuant to a joint stipulation, or agreement, filed and signed by both parties in this case. However, the parties moved to seal the joint motion due to personal information.

"Based on all the parties' joint motion, the court grants the motion to continue the trial. ... Defendants' jury trial is hereby continued to Aug. 29, 2023, at 10am. The court finds

that the time between the filing of the motion through the new trial date is excludable under the Speedy Trial Act. Failure to grant the motion would deny the defendants reasonable time necessary for effective preparation, taking into account the exercise of due diligence," said Manglona.

Meanwhile, *Saipan Tribune* learned that Deleon Guerrero is still employed by DPS, but she is currently suspended. She was previously put on indefinite administrative leave but has since been suspended.

DPS Commissioner Clement Bermudes told reporters that no one has been appointed to take over Deleon Guerrero's role at BMV as the case against the former director remains pending in federal court.

Assistant U.S. attorney Albert Flores Jr. filed the indictment against Deleon Guer-

rero in the U.S. District Court for the NMI last March on a charge of conspiring with others to unlawfully produce an identification document.

According to the indictment, Deleon Guerrero conspired with Li Yongde, also known as Ivan, from about Sept. 1, 2021, through about Oct. 31, 2022, to unlawfully produce a CNMI driver's license.

Deleon Guerrero has pleaded not guilty to the charge.

The indictment comes after the recent raid the Federal Bureau of Investigation conducted on the bureau.

Back in December 2022, FBI agents raided BMV and the CNMI Department of Public Safety's central office. FBI agents showed up unannounced at BMV and DPS central office in Susupe last Dec. 17, 2022, to carry out a search warrant issued for both offices.

## Rip current risk until Wednesday afternoon

The public is being warned that there is a high risk of rip currents along east facing reefs in the CNMI through Wednesday afternoon.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emer-

gency Operations Center State Warning Point, dangerous rip currents that started at 6pm last night are expected in east-facing reefs of the Marianas. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water.

The public is advised to stay

out of the water along east-facing reef lines. Swim near a lifeguard. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don't swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to escape, face the shore and call or wave for help. (PR)



### UNITED STATES Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



## NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold its 1st Quarter General Membership Meeting on May 12, 2023, from 9:00am to 1:00pm at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort – Caladium Hall.

### AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review & Adoption of the Agenda of May 12, 2023
- IV. Review & Adoption of Meeting Minutes of February 28, 2023
- V. Action Item
  - a. Ratify the Approval of the Proposed Amendment to the FY 2023 DD Basic Grant Budget
  - b. Ratify the Approval of the Proposed Amendment to the FY 2023 AT Program Budget
- VI. Reports
  - a. Chairman
  - b. State Plan Committee Chairperson
  - c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson
  - d. Executive Director
- VII. Old Business
  - a. April 2023 Autism Awareness Month Update
  - b. May 2023 Mental Health Awareness Month Update
  - c. CNMI-UCEDD Summit – June 2023 Update
- VIII. New Business
  - a. CLI Building Update
  - b. No Tech DIY Activity
- IX. Miscellaneous
- X. Next Meeting
- XI. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes of oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Concepcion Ulloa  
Chairperson

This ad is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award total \$274,744 with 100 percent funding by ACL/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

360 REVOLVING RESTAURANT

NOW OPEN  
FOR LUNCH

MONDAY TO FRIDAY 11:00AM - 2:00PM

BOOK NOW

6702343600

HAPPY HOUR EVERYDAY FROM  
5pm to 7pm 25% discount on  
drinks and appetizers



OFFERING  
10% OFF



# Community's help sought for info on Garapan burglary

The Department of Public Safety's Crime Stoppers unit is asking the community to help identify an individual involved in burglarizing a local shooting range and stealing seven firearms.

In a public statement, DPS said it is seeking the community's help regarding a recent burglary and theft incident at Bing Beng Bang Shooting Range in Western Garapan.

According to a press release is-

sued over the weekend, DPS received a report about the burglary last April 26, at around 7:39am. The victim stated they had been off-island for a few weeks and had just arrived that morning to check

on the gallery when they discovered that someone had cut the padlocks to the front gate doors.

The victim also found that the chain that was wrapped around the gate that the padlock was attached to been tampered with.

After doing an inventory, it was discovered that seven firearms, ranging from pistols to rifles, had

been stolen.

For those who may have any information on this incident, contact Crime Stoppers at (670) 234-7272. Caller ID is not used and anonymous tips can be sent to [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net). Crime Stoppers pays cash rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to an arrest. **(Kimberly B. Esmores)**

## \$1M appropriated for NMC Finasisu Lane

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has signed into law a local bill that appropriates \$1 million to the Northern Marianas College for the construction of Finasisu Lane, including road construction, water lines, wastewater lines, and others.

The money is sourced from dividends collected by the Common-

wealth Economic Development Authority from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

House Local Bill 23-08 is now Saipan Local Law 23-02.

Authored by Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan) and co-sponsored by several other lawmakers, the bill,



Attao

which was passed by the SNILD last March 30, would appropriate the \$1 million of the CEDA dividends

The NMC president is the expenditure authority of the funds. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

## TEEN

From Page 1

help in the search and rescue mission included the Department of Public Safety, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Customs and Border Protection, Customs and Biosecurity, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, the U.S Coast Guard, and private diving companies.

DPS spokesperson Fred Sato told media partners yesterday afternoon that the search is now on Day 2 without any new leads on Delos Santos.

"We currently have resources out in the water. We have five boats from different agencies like Customs and Border Protection, Customs and Biosecurity, BECQ, DPS Boating Safety, and Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services rescue boat [plus] the U.S Coast Guard cutter," he said. "We are also conducting dives right now. We have employed

divers to search the waters and the U.S Coast Guard helicopter has also been deployed. We have not recovered anything. There [are] no signs that could lead us to the discovery of the missing victim. But we are continuing with the search."

Sato said the rough conditions of Marine Beach yesterday was similar to last Saturday's when the victim and three other boys went to swim at the popular infinity pool within the beach.

"The conditions you see right now were similar to last Saturday's conditions, but Saturday was a bit more rough, which is why we did not employ divers then. But we have divers out there now and this is taking a chance, given the current conditions. DPS Boating Safety boats were deployed immediately after the call was made but it did take some time to get to the area as the only launching area is the Smiling Cove Marina, factoring in the rough waters. It took some

time to get here," Sato said.

Sato said that, although the search and rescue teams are not aware when the search will be called off, they will continue to search until given orders to stop. Standard search and rescue procedure dictates that, after four or five days of searching, agencies have to call off the search.

"I just want to say, if you know it's not safe and if you see the waters are rough, don't take your chances by going into the water. It takes just a split second for tragedy to happen. Have fun, but we encourage everyone out there to be mindful of the weather and ocean conditions before doing so," he said.

The victim's father, Jerome Delos Santos, described his son as a very quiet, humble, intelligent, and "overall just a good kid."

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## PALACIOS

From Page 1

the \$116.1 million revised budget for fiscal year 2023 that he just signed last week.

In his proposed budget, Palacios said the anticipated gross budgetary resources available for fiscal year 2024 is \$172.56 million. After adjustments—deducting debt service obligations, earmarked funds and other obligations such as the annual payments due the Settlement Fund—a total of \$115.41 million is available for appropriation.

To supplement the net resources, Palacios said his administration proposes a new revenue stream to address persistent challenges and sustain government operations and services.

He said they will need the enactment of legislation to generate additional revenues from the Gross Revenue Tax.

Palacios said the proposed budget calls for the reinstatement of earmarked funds that were suspended in fiscal year 2023 as they prioritize services and programs to grow the CNMI economy, protect the environment, and the welfare of the workforce.

The earmarked funds are the Solid Waste Management Revolving Fund, Solid Waste Revolving Fund (7% excise tax), Group Health and Life

Insurance for Employer Share, and Marianas Visitors Authority Hotel Occupancy Tax (80%).

Palacios said the resumption of Asiana Airlines' four weekly flights beginning April 27, 2023, and transitioning to daily flights in July 2023 is a promising sign for the continued recovery of tourism in the Marianas with the Korean market.

"This added seating capacity to the Marianas will progressively help us reach pre-pandemic arrivals," he said.

With Japan easing entry and departure requirements, Palacios said they are hopeful that the Marianas will be considered a choice destination, with United Airlines currently operating direct flights to and from Japan.

He said the request to reinstate the earmark of the Hotel Occupancy Tax reserve funding to MVA supports the effort to promote and market the Commonwealth in source countries in the region through MVA.

For fiscal year 2024, the administration proposes to maintain the suspension of 12 statutory earmarks to support the activities identified in the proposed budget. These 12 statutory earmarks are the Nonresident Worker Fee Fund for the Northern Marianas College and Public School System; Tobacco Control-Cigarette Tax; PSS Technical Education; Cancer Fund-Cigarette Tax; NMI Retirement Fund-Hotel Tax (20%); NMIRF-Alcohol Container (30%); MVA-Alcohol

Container (20%); NMIRF Defined Benefit Plan Fund-50% gaming; NMIRF-60% E-gaming; 3<sup>rd</sup> Senatorial District-15% E-gaming; 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Senatorial District-10% gaming; and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Senatorial District-Public Law 20-59.

Palacios said his administration is also proposing rate changes to the current schedule of the Business Gross Revenue Tax. He said the proposal is to increase BGRT by .5% for gross revenue earnings in excess of \$50,000, an increase of 1% for gross revenue earnings in excess of \$250,000 to \$750,000, and an increase to 6% for gross revenue earnings in excess of \$750,000.

Palacios urged the Legislature to act swiftly on this proposed amendment to the BGR schedule as this budget anticipates to realize revenues beginning on the first day of the second quarter of fiscal year 2024.

The governor said that, having closely scrutinized the funding requests of the departments and agencies (which exceeded the anticipated resources by \$86.5 million), the budget worksheets reflect a balanced budget and takes into account only critical activities and the mandatory set-asides for debt service payments and the annual payment to the Settlement Fund.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## CAR

From Page 1

Sunday evening, stated that DPS received a call reporting a vehicle crash by the Coffee Stop along Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Rd in Kannat Tabla around 2:38am last Saturday. The responding officer came upon a red Nissan pickup truck that had slammed into a wooden power pole along the road and was facing southeast. Upon further observation, the officer noted that the driv-

er and passenger of the car were still in the vehicle.

Police stated that the driver was unresponsive and the passenger was unconscious but still breathing.

Medics arrived at the scene shortly after and immediately transported the passenger to the Commonwealth Healthcare Center.

It was determined at the scene that the 44-year-old male driver had no pulse and was not breathing. He was transported to CHCC but was later pronounced dead at 3:20am by Dr. Elizabeth Culp.

## CUC

From Page 1

out that, as with any other business, when a business conducts its operations, it has to collect.

"And you guys are putting CUC in such a critical predicament where, if they don't receive the collections, then that puts them at risk of [not being able to purchase] fuel," she said.

The senator said if CUC does not purchase the fuel, it affects everybody, including the hospital.

Terlaje said she does not think she can tell Mobil Oil to deliver fuel to CUC and not pay for that.

"That's pretty much in a nutshell what's going on," Terlaje said.

The CUC board of directors has rejected CHCC's proposal to pay \$225,000 monthly for utility services, saying the plan is not sustainable.

Including CHCC's \$200,000 monthly average electricity billing, CHCC's total monthly average billings for all services is \$500,000. According to CUC, CHCC's unpaid arrears for power, water, and wastewater service have now reached \$53.6 million as of March 31, 2023.

CUC is asking for a monthly payment of \$500,000 plus \$225,000—for a total of \$725,000 each month. CUC said they will press ahead with disconnecting the hospital by this Thursday, if no payment or settlement is reached.

At the end of the day, Terlaje said, they do understand that CHCC is crying to the Legislature and the government for help.

"While CUC may have concern with some of the proposed solutions by both the House and the Senate, CHCC has no choice but to make the necessary adjustments as applicable, and hope they don't impact CUC ratepayers significantly," Terlaje said.

She said they are also requesting the Senate and the government to help CHCC get out of its predicament.

Terlaje pointed out that CUC is also in a critical financial situation as the economy has significantly declined. That has impacted CUC's fi-

nances as well.

For the last 13 years or more, she said, CUC has in good faith provided utility services to CHCC, but for the last several years there has been little or no payments made for the consumption that CHCC has consumed.

"We have tried to work with CHCC over the years to find an amicable solution. And it is the same story we hear each and every time that they cannot pay," she said.

Terlaje said CHCC brought up in their presentation CUC's government rate versus the commercial rate.

She said it's true that CUC's commercial rate is cheaper, but that's a rate that was submitted to the Public Utilities Commission and was not contested at the time.

Terlaje said it was the understanding that the government rate for water and sewer was going to be a lot higher, because the government wanted to subsidize CUC.

"It is what it is. And so you cannot just change the rate, even if we wanted to do so," she said.

Terlaje said that disputing the rate doesn't relieve CHCC of its obligation because the rates were designed for full-cost recovery. She disclosed that the CUC board has talked about and has a plan to do a new rate study.

Terlaje said they have been asking for a new rate since 2012 for power and 2014 for water.

"But we just can't reduce it now because the differences would be unaccounted for between the commercial and the government rate that CHCC wants to avail of," she said.

As she explained how the Fuel Adjustment Charge is computed, Terlaje clarified that the \$53 million CHCC owes CUC is not passed on to every ratepayer or in the FAC rate.

Terlaje also mentioned that they are still trying to satisfy the federal court-stipulated orders, which require CUC to collect its receivables.

She said they have received many federal funds for the many deficiencies itemized in the stipulated orders.

"And CUC has put in as much as they can squeeze out for these projects," Terlaje said.



# Law enforcers kick off Public Safety Awareness Month



Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang are joined by Saipan Mayor Ramon RB Camacho, Department of Public Safety Commissioner Clement R. Bermudes, DPS officers, partnering law enforcement and emergency and medical services department heads, lawmakers, and members of the community during a proclamation signing ceremony at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center last Friday.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The CNMI's law enforcement agencies came together last Friday to kick off "2023 Public Safety Awareness Month" with simultaneous proclamation signings and a free exhibit at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang signed five proclamations that designated the week of May 14-20, 2023, as CNMI Police Week, the week of May 20-26, 2023, as National Safe Boat-

ing Week, the week of May 22-June 4, 2023, as Click It or Ticket Mobilization, and May 15, 2023, as Peace Officers' Memorial Day.

Palacios, in his brief remarks, acknowledged the hard work and dedication of the men and women who serve as part of CNMI's law enforcement. He also stated that his administration strongly supports the CNMI's law enforcement agencies.

Apatang thanked the men and women who serve as the CNMI's front line defense stating that it is because of

them that the CNMI community remains safe.

Present at the ceremony were local and federal law enforcement officers and department heads from Department of Public Safety, Department of Corrections, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, CNMI Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Homeland Security Investigations, Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco Control, Ports Police, Customs Biosecurity, CNMI Marshals, and U.S. Marshals. Also present were CNMI dignitaries

like House Speaker Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) and Saipan Mayor RB Camacho.

According to DPS Commissioner Clement Bermudes, this year's celebration of Public Safety Awareness Month is special because, aside from the fact that it is the first such celebration since COVID-19 hit the world, it is also a collaborative celebration, which means all events in celebration of Public Safety Awareness will include all local and federal law enforcement agencies.

"This is about collaboration and showcasing the different

law enforcement agencies, both federal and local, which is important as we continue to improve our capabilities to provide one of the critical services for our islands which is security and safety," he said.

Bermudes said the most important part of this year's celebration is the collaboration among all local and federal law enforcement agencies.

"The most important thing is the collaboration of the different law enforcement agencies so we can share the different abilities of each agency so we can work together as one as we enforce the different laws of the Commonwealth. This also ensures that we get used to one another and work well with one another in case of an emergency," he said.

"We are all neighbors and like neighbors, trust is important between all law enforcement agencies as well as the community," he added.



Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang sign the proclamation documents during a ceremony at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center last Friday.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

## NMC student selected for Hollings Summer Preparatory Program

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has selected Northern Marianas College student John Sablan to participate in the Hollings Preparation Program this summer. Sablan, who is pursuing a degree in Natural Resource Management, was chosen from a pool of qualified applicants for the program.

The Hollings Preparation Program is a career development opportunity designed to prepare undergraduates for the full NOAA Hollings Scholarship. Hollings schol-

ars are paired with NOAA mentors primarily on the West Coast for four to six weeks during the summer, where they gain valuable work experience and prepare to become competitive applicants for the scholarship. The program also provides participants with a \$500 scholarship and \$4,000 stipend.

Sablan, who is the first student from the CNMI to be selected for the program, is excited for the new experience. "I'm grateful for this op-

portunity to work with NOAA and gain hands-on experience in my field," Sablan said. "I'm looking forward to learning from my mentor and meeting other scholars who share my passion for environmental science."

Sablan will be working with two other HPP scholars at the CNMI's local NOAA office. In addition to gaining work experience, HPP scholars are required to participate in an opening event on July 10,

2023, attend a twice-weekly webinar series, and present their work at a closing event on Aug. 17-18, 2023.

"John is an exceptional student, and we're thrilled that he's been selected for this prestigious program," said NMC president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Ed.D. "We're proud to see our students competing at the national level and gaining valuable experience in their fields."

For more information about the Hollings Preparation Program and NOAA, visit [noaa.gov](http://noaa.gov). (NMC)



Sablan

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122  
THE LAW OFFICES OF  
MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC  
POST OFFICE BOX 5222  
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950  
TEL: (670) 234-6547  
FAX: (670) 234-9537  
ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

DONALD BUFTON, J CIVIL ACTION  
NO. 04-0043

Plaintiff, )  
 )  
-v- )  
 )  
SAMUEL )  
RAYBURN, )  
 )  
Defendant. )

### ELEVENTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued by the Court in this matter on October 12, 2007, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:

**Legal description of the property:**  
Lot no. 012 B 08, situated in Calabera, Saipan Northern Mariana Islands, containing 39, 297 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat no. 012 B 01, which was registered with the Land Registry as Document no. 1466 on the 15th of March, 1972.

**Total area of the property:**  
39,297 square meters

**Known encumbrances:**  
The interest to be sold is a fully-prepaid leasehold interest which expires on May 31, 2042. There are no other known valid encumbrances materially affecting title.

**Date, Time, and Place of Sale.** The sale will be held on Friday, May 19, 2023, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public. Copies of a title insurance report for the properties are available to any prospective bidder upon request.

**Terms and Conditions of Sale.** The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

Dated, this 6th day of April, 2023:

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122  
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC  
POST OFFICE BOX 5222  
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950  
TEL: (670) 234-6547  
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK, : CIVIL ACTION  
: NO. 09-0505

Plaintiff, :  
 :  
-v- :  
 :  
ALEINA D. :  
HOFSCHEIDER, :  
ALVIN U. :  
HOFSCHEIDER, :  
and LOUISE C. :  
HOFSCHEIDER, :  
Defendants. :  
:

### FOURTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on August 3, 2011, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: (a) Lot 005 1 547, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2084/82, the original of which was registered on May 14, 1982, as Document No. 14232, at the Land Registry, Saipan; and (b) Lot 1734 NEW -7- 5 (formerly part of Lot 1734 NEW -3, which was part of original Lot 1734, T.D. 661), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2017/90, the original of which was recorded on November 15, 1989, as Document No. 89-3805, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.


**Date, Time, and Place of Sale.** The sale will be held on Friday, May 19, 2023, at the hour of 1:45 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

**Terms and Conditions of Sale.** The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.


DATED, this 6th day of April, 2023:

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer





COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION



INVITATION FOR BIDS  
CUC-IFB-23-021

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF LED STREET LIGHT LUMINAIRES AND MATERIALS  
FOR THE STREETLIGHT EFFICIENCY PROJECT, SAIPAN.

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of Light Emitting Diode (LED) streetlight luminaires and materials to promote energy and cost saving measures on the power distribution system in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded from the United States Department of the Interior (USDOIA).

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-23-021, Supply and Delivery of LED Streetlight Luminaires and Materials for the Streetlight Efficiency Project, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 1, 2023 at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) of the total bid price shall accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 12, 2023 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Lee T. Lieto, CUC Power Division Manager via email [lee.lieto@cucgov.org](mailto:lee.lieto@cucgov.org); Jonathan Camacho, CUC Power Division Junior Engineer via email [jonathan.camacho@cucgov.org](mailto:jonathan.camacho@cucgov.org); and Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior via email [marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org](mailto:marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any non-material imperfection in the bid proposal if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

Bettina G. Terlaje  
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator

MAXIMIZE YOUR BUSINESS EXPOSURE

ADVERTISE

with us!

01

Saipan Tribune was among the most frequently used and trusted local news sources among CNMI residents surveyed

02

72% of CNMI residents surveyed perceived the Saipan Tribune to be "trustworthy" or "very trustworthy"

03

of CNMI residents surveyed reported using Saipan Tribune "often" or "all the time" as a local news source

670.235-8747

[saipantribune.com](http://saipantribune.com)

[saipantribune](https://saipantribune)

[saipantribuneofficial](https://saipantribuneofficial)

SOURCE

i Minagahet - Ellet: Reporting the Truth in the Northern Mariana Islands by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council

A study regarding news media use and perceptions, news media literacy, civic engagement, and community values in the Northern Islands

<https://www.nmhcouncil.org/mediasurvey2022/>

NEWS USE AND PERCEPTIONS

Use and Perceived Trustworthiness of Media as Sources of Local News\*

# JKPL offers after-school program, ukulele classes

Need help with your homework? The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is launching a new after-school program to help children with their reading and school assignments. Children ages 6 years old to 12 years old are welcome.

Families are invited to register their children in the following sessions: (Session A) Wednesdays or (Session B) Thursdays from 3pm to 5pm at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

Seats are limited and registration is required. Participants must have a valid library card and be free from fines.

For more information, contact Celina Forman at (670) 235-7315 or email [cnmistatelibrary@gmail.com](mailto:cnmistatelibrary@gmail.com).

**Ukulele classes**

Registration for beginner and intermediate ukulele class is ongoing. The minimum age requirement is open to children ages 8 years or older and adults.

The total cost for eight class sessions is \$70.

Ukulele classes are held at Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in partnership with ukulele instructor Larry Lee and children.

Sessions began last April 26, 2023. Ukulele classes are held every Wednesdays from 4pm to 5pm at JKPL.

The JKPL ukulele class is based on "first come; first paid" basis. Students must provide their own ukuleles and a folder to hold music sheets (plastic sheet protectors and a three-ring binder are recommended).

Parents/guardians must sign a liability waiver form on behalf of their participating children and must adhere to public library policies and procedures.

For questions regarding ukulele class, call Celina Foreman or Caitlyn Crisostomo at 235-7315 / 7318 during regular library hours. (PR)

# UOG workshops in May: Learn to respond to challenging dementia-related behavior

The University of Guam's Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program is offering an opportunity for caregivers of persons with dementia to participate in an online training and certification program called CARES Dementia-Related Behavior.

Participants will learn how to respond when persons with dementia are feeling confused, frustrated, scared, or angry, or exhibiting behavior that is disruptive or aggressive. Participants who complete all four modules of the program will receive a certificate of completion and will be eligible for CARES Dementia Certification. The training schedule is outlined below.

**Dementia-Related Behavior**

■ 6pm to 8pm Wednesday, May 10, or

■ 10am to noon, Saturday, May 13

**MODULE 3: Breaking down the CARES Approach for Dementia-Related Behavior**

■ 6pm to 8pm Wednesday, May 17, or

■ 10am to noon, Saturday, May 20

**MODULE 4: Key Responses to Dementia-Related Behavior**

■ 6pm to 8pm Wednesday, May 24, or

■ 10am to noon, Saturday, May 27

Participants can attend the Wednesday or Saturday sessions using the following Zoom links:

■ Wednesday sessions: <https://zoom.us/j/92072878067>

■ Saturday sessions: <https://zoom.us/j/91243370958>

**MODULE 1: Introduction to Dementia-Related Behavior**

■ 6pm to 8pm Wednesday, May 3, or

■ 10am to noon, Saturday, May 6

**MODULE 2: Using the CARES Approach with Sharing caregiver**

**stories and finding support**

In the fifth week of May, one session will provide participants with an opportunity to share their experiences as family caregivers of persons with dementia and to receive support and guidance from other members of the group. This session will be held on May 31, Wednesday, from 6pm to 8pm.

**Ongoing dementia support groups**

These sessions are part of the ongoing online support groups for family caregivers of persons with dementia being conducted by the Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program of the UOG School of Health. The support group sessions are held on Zoom on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings year-round. The sessions are free of charge to partners, family members, and other caregivers of persons with dementia who have ties to Guam and the Micronesian region.

**For more information, contact:**

Dr. Iain Twaddle or Nikolas Gutierrez

Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program

Telehealth Geriatric Support Services

University of Guam

Tel: (671) 735-2883


Email: [gwpet.tgss@triton.uog.edu](mailto:gwpet.tgss@triton.uog.edu)

Rhoda Orallo


Health Services of the Pacific

Tel: (671) 735-3277

Email: [r.orallo@hspguam.com](mailto:r.orallo@hspguam.com) (UOG)



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)  
"ADDENDUM"  
EXTENSION OF SUBMISSION DATE  
RFP23-CHCC/CAS-012A

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MAY 19TH, 2023 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)  
"PROCUREMENT OF CT SCAN"  
(Outright Purchase, Shipping, Delivery, Installation, Training and Commissioning)

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE ([WWW.CHCC.HEALTH](http://WWW.CHCC.HEALTH)). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA  
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA  
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY





# Saipan Eagles induct new members, officers, board for 2023

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**  
chrystal\_marino@saipantribune.com  
Correspondent

**T**he Saipan Magalahi Eagles Club and Saipan Maga'Haga Lady Eagles Group gathered last April 22 at the Fiesta Hall of the Grandvrio Resort in Garapan to welcome 21 new members and install the officers and board of directors for 2023.

The 2023 officers and board of directors of the Saipan Magalahi Eagles Club are Dennis T. Cortez as president, Gerald C. Aniciete as vice president, Segundo Lapeceros Jr. as secretary, Bong Martinez as treasurer, Joselito Espino as auditor, Antonio Lastimado Jr. taking over as club PRO, and Ronald De Ramos and Walter B. Brillio Jr. as protocol officers.

Carlito J. Marquez, Marlon E. Regaton, Rommel D. Relucio, Ryan S. Odieta, Saturnino "Atoy" Banting, and Noel B. Ordas compose the board of directors, while Teogenes Mendoza, and Jayvee Sagum took over as club Comelec team leaders. Cornelio General Jr., Rowen Mendoza, and Emmerson S. Claveria took on the role of care chairman.

The Saipan Maga'Haga Lady Eagles Group also installed their 2023 officers and board of directors, with Yolanda A. De Ramos as president, Maria Aileen A. Contreras as vice president, Maureen V. Claveria re-

suming the role of secretary, Ritchell Q. Sublemente as treasurer, Mary Jane A. Diestro becoming auditor, Melca J. Austria as the press relations officer, and Roselle D. Pitpit as protocol officer.

Mellany D. Regaton and Birhen K. Martinez were installed as members of the board of directors. Luzviminda U. Relucio was installed as club Comelec, JMildred Ebu as the care chairperson, and Angelica Vina V. Lastimado as the IPP/club adviser.

Twenty-one new members were also inducted to both the Saipan Magalahi Eagles Club and Saipan Maga'Haga Lady Eagles Group, with 18 new members going to the Saipan Magalahi Eagles Club and three new members to the Saipan Maga'Haga Lady Eagles Group.

Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho, who is also an honorary member of the Saipan Magalahi Eagles Club, was the night's keynote speaker. He congratulated the new officers and members and inspired all members to continue doing good in the community. He offered his assistance, encouraging the team to continue working with him in his community program.

Others present at the event were Rep. Roy Aldan Ada, Lions Club International District 204 district governor Loisa Cabuhat, and first vice district governor Blanca Imbo. The event was also held virtually.





# Opinion

Hafa Adair

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 86Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR  
editor@saipantribune.com**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## The Supreme Court needs a real ethics code

“Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants,” wrote Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis, in a 1913 essay. The dictum has proved so apt over the years as to become a cliché. Unfortunately, it now needs to be applied to the court itself.

Few US institutions are subject to as little formal scrutiny as the Supreme Court. In theory, members of the court are subject to the same financial disclosure rules as other high-level federal officials. Yet with no one empowered to enforce those rules but themselves, the justices have all too often seemed to be above the law. The situation increasingly feels untenable.

Take Justice Clarence Thomas's relationship with Texas real-estate developer Harlan Crow. A major conservative donor, Crow has for decades entertained Thomas and his wife on annual vacations that have included cruises on his yacht, flights on his plane, and stays at an exclusive California retreat. Although federal law requires disclosing gifts worth more than a few hundred dollars, Thomas has divulged hardly any of Crow's largesse, citing advice from colleagues early in his tenure that such arrangements were a “personal hospitality.” It's true that the law contains a hospitality exception, but few experts think it absolves Thomas of his reporting obligations altogether. (New rules took effect March 14 that tighten such requirements.)

Complicating matters further, Crow bought Thomas's mother's home in Georgia as well as other adjacent family-owned property for \$133,000 in 2014. Again: Federal officials, including justices, are required by law to report any real-estate transaction above \$1,000. Thomas claims the matter was an oversight. Whether he acted improperly is at best ambiguous.

Yet Thomas is hardly the only justice to engage in ethically equivocal conduct in recent years. Justices across the ideological spectrum have been accused of failing to make pertinent financial disclosures, accepting dubious blandishments, rejecting well-founded calls for recusal, engaging in questionable political and financial activity, and much else that would raise the eyebrows of any reasonable observer.

That the Supreme Court is the only federal bench in the nation without an explicit written code of conduct makes such behavior almost inevitable. All other federal courts are governed by a longstanding central ethics code. Administered by the Judicial Conference of the United States, the policymaking body that oversees the judiciary, the code offers one key tenet: “A judge should avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety in all activities.”

One can debate the particulars of Thomas's case, but it's hard to argue that his entanglements with Crow don't create at least an “appearance” of misconduct. That Crow has no cases directly before the court isn't entirely ex-

See SUPREME on Page 9



## Planning to power your car with cooking oil? Fat chance

Is there any way the auto industry can withstand the onslaught of electric vehicles? Chevron Corp. is hoping so.

The oil producer sent three Toyota Motor Corp. models on a trip across the US last week with the objective of proving that its “renewable gasoline blend” might provide a better option for decarbonizing road transport than battery-powered vehicles. Fossil fuels make up less than half of the blend and it's more than 40% less carbon-intensive than conventional gasoline, according to Chevron.

This isn't just marketing. The company spent \$3.15 billion last year taking over Renewable Energy Group Inc., or REG, a leading producer of biodiesel. Crucial to that deal was REG's expertise in turning waste into fuel—roughly 70% of the feedstocks for its bio-refineries comes from waste oil and waste agricultural produce.

That's a tempting prospect. It's relatively easy to convert the sort of sugars and vegetable oils that you'll find in your kitchen cupboard into biofuels, but there's only so much of that stuff you can produce. Soybeans or sugarcane that are used to power vehicles aren't being used to nourish humans, and with a global market for agricultural produce that means cars are often privileged over the one-tenth of humanity who go hungry. From next to nothing in the 1990s before the current round of gasoline blending mandates came in, fuel now accounts for a larger share of America's farm produce than food for domestic consumption.

Waste products that are headed for landfill or the water treatment plant provide a way out. Instead of making fatbergs in the city's sewers, the millions of gallons of used cooking oil thrown out by restaurants and food processors could be turned into a revenue stream, converted into road fuel in biorefineries. Rudolf Diesel first designed the engine named after him to run on vegetable oil. With some minor chemical tweaks, used cooking oil, or UCO, can be blended seamlessly into the fuel that comes out of a gas pump.

That's the theory, at least. The problem is, there's not enough of it.

The world produces a bit more than 200 million metric tons of vegetable oil every year. But oil production comes to nearly 5 billion tons, so all the oilseeds in the world wouldn't be able to fuel our vehicles for much more than a couple of weeks. And of course, the vast majority of the vegetable oil we produce isn't turned into waste fats, but consumed by humans or animals and metabolized into living tissue.

The most bullish forecasts don't see global used cooking oil supply rising above 28 million tons a year in 2030, enough to displace about 0.5% of the world's fossil oil production. Rendered animal fats probably add at most 10 million tons to that total. Put another

By **DAVID FICKLING**  
Bloomberg Opinion

David Fickling is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering energy and commodities. Previously, he worked for Bloomberg News, the Wall Street Journal and the Financial Times.



way: Even the most optimistic prospects for UCO wouldn't make as much difference in emissions terms as, say, more widespread adoption of engines that switch off when idling, an activity that accounts for about 1.6% of America's total greenhouse gas emissions.

Are there ways to get our hands on more waste oils? Not by much. One of the challenges for supply of used fats is that they're sourced from myriad restaurants, food factories and domestic homes, making it difficult to collect on an industrial scale. Raising the price by mandating that fuel suppliers blend in more UCO might provide an economic incentive for waste collectors to track down supplies, but it's also rife with unintended consequences.

In the US, there's been a small-scale crime wave in recent years from criminals stealing UCO, often nicknamed “liquid gold.” In Europe, biofuels producers and activists have claimed that oils imported from Asia and labeled as waste are often virgin oils such as palm oil, adulterated to resemble kitchen grease. That would hardly be surprising. Used cooking oil trades at an average 29% premium in China to the price of palm oil futures in Malaysia, giving criminals a roughly \$300 per ton incentive to convert one product to the other.

It's no bad thing that mandates on waste fuels are encouraging the growth of supply chains to convert trash into treasure. If we're serious about building a sustainable circular economy that reuses and recycles products rather than just tipping them into landfill, we'll need that infrastructure to support it.

We shouldn't make the mistake of thinking that this process will cause so much as a dent in oil demand, however. Chevron wants to promote “renewable gasoline” not because it will reduce consumption of crude petroleum, but because it hopes it could provide a bulwark against the cleaner, cheaper, more disruptive threat posed by electric vehicles. For centuries, we've used waste fats to make consumer goods such as soap, moisturizers and makeup. Like all those products, the impact on oil demand from the rise of used cooking oil will be mostly cosmetic.



## EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## A bipartisan effort aims to stop arming human rights abusers like Saudi Arabia

America sells more weapons across the globe than any other country, and each year we send them to countries with records rife with human rights abuses.

Whether it's Saudi Arabia's use of American weapons in attacks on civilians in Yemen or the many coups in West Africa led by American-trained officers, these outcomes stoke greater instability and conflict, which only undermines America's national interests around the world.

There ought to be a law against this. Fortunately, there is. Unfortunately, it isn't enforced.

But a bipartisan effort is underway to change that. If this effort succeeds, it would be a major step in reasserting Congress' oversight role in military assistance and could open the door to far greater scrutiny over U.S. decisions to provide weapons, training and other support. This would not only make America a more credible champion of human rights but would also ensure our military tools don't foster conflict and violence instead of peace.

The law is Section 502B of the Foreign Assistance Act. Passed by Congress in 1974, it prohibits U.S. security assistance to any country whose government "engages in a consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights." It provides Congress with the tools needed to enforce this prohibition.

U.S. Sens. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., and Mike Lee, R-Utah, have introduced a resolution pursuant to 502B requesting a review of Saudi Arabia's human rights record in order to inform a debate in Congress on how that record should affect our arms sales to the Saudis.

All this is in line with a provision in 502B that says that Congress can request a report on the human rights record of a target country and, based on that report, can vote to end or restrict aid to it. If the administration fails to pro-

vide the requested report within 30 days, aid to that country is automatically suspended. This marks the first time in decades that these mechanisms could be invoked.

The same law mandates the annual country reports on human rights practices, which often document patterns of abuse in countries we partner with. But these routine reports on every country, all released together once a year, haven't been effective at triggering change. In contrast, a report requested under 502B, specifically called for by Congress, forces a public discussion on our security partnership with a specific country.

These reporting provisions were part of a major legislative push in the wake of the Vietnam War to enhance oversight of U.S. foreign policy and bring human rights considerations to the fore. The shift was in recognition that partnering with regimes that abuse human rights is not only morally problematic but also undermines U.S. interests in the long run.

In the case of its war in Yemen, for example, Saudi Arabia's abuses have created one of the biggest humanitarian crises on earth. U.S. security assistance in West Africa has not only helped undermine democracy in several countries, but also, the violent terrorist insurgencies it was meant to rein in have only grown. Egypt has long been one of our biggest recipients of security assistance and weapons, despite its ongoing and systemic repression and abuse of human rights defenders and other civilians. This does not appear to be creating a more prosperous or stable state.

Despite these bad outcomes, Congress has failed for decades to make use of its oversight powers to end or limit support to abusive regimes, leaving the executive branch free to provide security assistance with minimal constraints. Section 502B is occasionally referenced by

By ELIZABETH SHACKELFORD  
Chicago Tribune



Elizabeth Shackelford is a senior fellow on U.S. foreign policy with the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. She was previously a U.S. diplomat and is the author of *The Dissent Channel: American Diplomacy in a Dishonest Age*.

administrations as part of their own decisions to curtail security assistance, as the Biden administration did with Ethiopia in 2021, but Congress has never used its authority under this provision to block or limit weapons sales or other military assistance.

Congress has other mechanisms for exercising oversight over U.S. arms sales, but they are more limited. Under the Arms Export Control Act, the U.S. Department of State must report arms sales to Congress, which then can block specific transactions. But addressing one transaction at a time is unnecessarily laborious when it comes to abusive governments with whom we have extensive security partnerships.

Section 502B, in contrast, allows Congress to reevaluate the entire security relationship with a given country, and to do so in the public eye.

Such a reevaluation could end the inertia that drives aid to countries when it no longer serves our national interest. Even the U.S. has limited means to help its allies, and right now, for example, Saudi Arabia ranks ahead of Taiwan in line for critical weapons systems. Today, that makes little sense.

When a human rights review forces Congress to rethink the costs and benefits of our security relationships, our representatives might find better ways to use our limited resources, like dedicating them to strengthening countries that reflect the values and stability we hope to see more of in the world rather than those that don't.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Cannabis tourism: The stigma and reality!

The CNMI created a cannabis tourism industry but we tied our hands in growing the industry. How can there be a cannabis tourism industry and there is nowhere for tourists to smoke? It's beyond ridiculous and bordering on being brain-dead from the effects of a false stigma. The CNMI's cannabis tourism was doomed to failure from Day 1, leaving the industry to depend solely on locals purchasing from dispensaries. But unlike Colorado that has millions of people, the CNMI has less than 100,000, meaning the CNMI must import people (tourists) to purchase marijuana or be content with paying more to run the industry than we are taking in. The recent yearly report showed that we spent around \$250,000 on employees and board members but only brought in a little over \$40,000. Unlike Colorado that also got tens of millions in free national and international advertisement—being the first state to legalize—the CNMI didn't get any free advertisement, nor has the CNMI done any advertisement outside of the CNMI, not even in Guam. Our cannabis tourism industry is not working and it is imperative that we change our methodology for promoting the industry.

The stigma about marijuana actually played a major role in creating our present cannabis law, which is why the law only halfway started the industry and anything half-done usually won't work very well. Marijuana should be treated very much the same way we treat the other vices like cigarettes and alcohol. We allow cigarettes and alcohol use in public, but marijuana is banned and we even random test for marijuana but no testing for alcohol usage on the job—all because of a false stigma. We are even testing every government employee for marijuana when its legal! Science has now proved that marijuana is less dangerous and less addictive than alcohol and cigarettes, but our laws don't reflect this new reality. Local adults have been using marijuana and respecting

our youth at parties by going to the back of the house and on the beaches ever since marijuana first arrived in the islands, so why did we make a law against using it at the beach? We can't even have cannabis tourism events, all because of a law based on the stigma against marijuana that must be changed.

The reality is the CNMI is at the forefront of cannabis tourism in our region of the Pacific, but it seems we are the only ones who know this fact, given the lack of marketing and advertisement. The reality is that any business and industry must market and promote their products or face doom and gloom from their competitors, which is why I continue to admonish the fact that once Guam legalizes recreational use, our hopes for cannabis tourism may be doomed if we don't correct the mistakes made in creating our cannabis tourism industry. Marijuana usage is really "sensible common sense" but the stigma had the powers-that-be dumbfounded and they didn't listen when I wrote the first draft of the law and they even threw away over 50 pages.

I'm sure most parents who are now educated about marijuana would much rather see their children using marijuana when they grow up as opposed to cigarettes and alcohol, as marijuana has never caused a bar fight like alcohol, a death, nor an illness like we see with alcohol and cigarettes that have contributed to all kinds of diseases and thousands, if not millions, of deaths over time. It is truly time for the Legislature and for our society to get educated about marijuana and get rid of the stigma that has prevented our society from evolving in the use of marijuana. It's time to get real because our cannabis tourism industry needs a complete overhaul if we are to put the industry on the right course to truly bring in revenues for our government.

Ambrose M. Bennett  
Kagman III, Saipan

### SUPREME

From Page 8

erative (as Bloomberg News reported, two decades ago, the court declined to hear a case linked to Crow's family firm); the problem arises from an individual of great wealth squiring a Supreme Court justice and his family around on a yearly basis and mostly keeping the matter secret. So it goes with the other justices, whether they explicitly violated a rule or not.

What should be done?

In a 2011 report, Chief Justice John Roberts asserted that the Supreme Court shouldn't fall under the same set of rules as the rest of the judiciary. Because the high court was created by the Constitution, not Congress, it was due an added measure of self-governance. In his view, the ideal balance for justices mulling ethical questions would be to "consult" the code of conduct while seeking advice from the court's legal office and "from their colleagues."

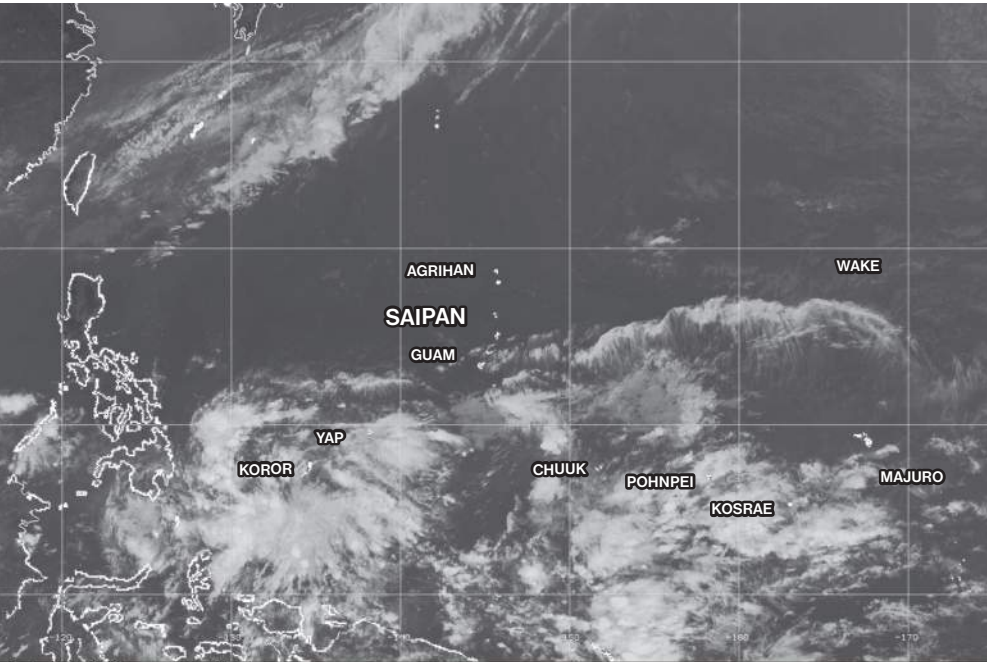
Such an arrangement is almost an invitation to abuse. Roberts should instead invoke his authority as chair of the Judicial Conference to establish a formal ethics code specific to the high court. In fact, there's precedent for the court and Congress working together on issues where legislative and judicial prerogatives intersect. In the 1990s, the rules of habeas corpus were significantly revised after then-Chief Justice William Rehnquist assembled a commission of federal judges to study the issue. Congress picked up the commission's recommendations and passed them into law.

A similar commission should be established to create rules of the road for the high court itself. It should specify how those rules will be enforced, and by whom. And it should add a bit of sunlight to an institution that has for too long resisted it.



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny	
86°	79°	86°	77°	88°	76°	86°	78°	86°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



**PICTURE TIME: 7:24 AM, MONDAY, MAY 1, 2023**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar imagery showed only isolated showers over the Marianas this morning. East trade-winds prevail over the islands.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA ▲ ▼ °F		
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Chuuk	Scattered Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Majuro	Scattered Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:53 AM	6:34 PM
Wednesday	5:53 AM	6:34 PM
Thursday	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Friday	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Saturday	5:51 AM	6:35 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	3:26 AM	3:38 PM
Wednesday	-	4:01 AM	4:27 PM
Thursday	-	4:37 AM	5:17 PM
Friday	-	5:15 AM	6:11 PM
Saturday	-	5:56 AM	7:08 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE ▲ ▼ °F		
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	71° / 63°
Beijing	Sunny	87° / 61°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	79° / 75°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	82° / 70°
London	Mostly Cloudy	59° / 41°
Los Angeles	Cloudy	62° / 52°
Manila	Mostly Sunny	96° / 81°
Melbourne	Showers	66° / 53°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	82° / 68°
New York	Partly Cloudy	60° / 49°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	71° / 51°
Paris	Showers	65° / 45°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	68° / 55°
Rome	Light Rain	67° / 56°
Salem	Sunny	70° / 47°
San Francisco	Cloudy/Wind	56° / 48°
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	75° / 52°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	72° / 52°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	61° / 48°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
5:39 AM	High Tide	1.85
11:59 AM	Low Tide	0.73
5:45 PM	High Tide	1.65
11:46 PM	Low Tide	0.67

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 30, 2023							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7 via ICN	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.									
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022									
SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY		
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily		
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun		
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri		
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily		
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA					
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY		
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri		
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY		
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily		
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily		
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily		
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily		
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily		
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily		
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily		

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

**CUSTOMER SERVICE** For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

**ADVERTISING** For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: [sales@saipantribune.com](mailto:sales@saipantribune.com)



## Business

# New Midea Appliance opens in Garapan

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

An authorized seller of China's No. 1 appliance brand opened in Garapan when New Midea Appliance unveiled its showroom last April 28.

Manager Hai Wang said the opening is just a soft-opening though as they're still waiting on their shipment of new items.

For now, the showroom that is located across Pacific Quick Print along Middle Road in Garapan has only some air conditioning units, refrigerators, washing machines and dryers, and small appliances like microwave ovens on display.

Wang said they will soon take stock of the newest mod-



New Midea Appliance is located across Pacific Quick Print along Middle Road in Garapan.

MARK RABAGO



MARK RABAGO

Midea is China's No. 1 appliance brand and has a presence in over 200 countries.



MARK RABAGO

A staff of New Midea Appliance checks the computer on the arrival of their new inventory.

Appliance also offers warranties—two years for their air conditioning units and one year for the other appliances.

They will also soon introduce a layaway program and will accept credit card purchases once the bank sets up their system.

New Midea Appliance is open from 8am to 5:30pm Monday- Saturday. For more information, call New Midea Saipan at 233-1666.

Midea appliances are made by Midea Group, which is a leading manufacturer of home appliances and HVAC systems in the world.

According to its website, Midea Group's global presence offers a wide range of products such as refrigerators, air conditioners, washing machines, and small kitchen appliances.

Midea was founded in 1968 and initially produced plastic bottle caps before expanding into the production of household appliances in the early 1980s. Its first significant product was a rice cooker that quickly became popular in China, setting the stage for Midea's expansion into other household appliances.

Currently, Midea Group has a presence in over 200 countries, with more than 30 overseas branches and 126,000 employees worldwide.

els of Midea flatscreen TVs (of all sizes), microwave ovens, stove top ranges, electric fans (tower, wall, ceiling, desk, stand), exhaust fans, chest freezers, and many more.

To celebrate its opening, New Midea Appliance has an introductory promotion where all items in the store are 20% off.

Wang said Midea Appliances are not only popular in China, but they are also up to U.S. standards. New Midea

## Judge rules against Google, allows antitrust case to proceed

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP)—A federal judge on Friday rejected a motion from Google to toss out the government's antitrust case against it.

U.S. District Judge Leonie Brinkema ruled the lawsuit alleging Google wields monopolistic power in the world of online advertising can proceed in its entirety.

Her ruling is the second setback for Google at the federal court in Alexandria. Google had earlier tried to get the case consolidated with a similar lawsuit that's been ongoing for several years in New York. But Brinkema ruled last month that the case can proceed in the Alexandria courthouse, which is known as the "Rocket Docket" for its reputation of adjudicating disputes swiftly.

The lawsuit alleges that Google holds a virtual monopoly in online advertising that works to the detriment

of consumers. The complaint alleged that Google "corrupted legitimate competition in the ad tech industry by engaging in a systematic campaign to seize control of the wide swath of high-tech tools used by publishers, advertisers, and brokers, to facilitate digital advertising."

Google argued that the case should be tossed out, in part because the government defines Google's alleged monopoly too narrowly. Google's lawyers contend the lawsuit does not account for advertisers' ability, for example, to advertise on huge social media platforms like Facebook and TikTok that run their own advertising platforms independent of Google.

In court papers, Google made an analogy to an unsuccessful antitrust lawsuit against Live Nation, a concert promoter that owns and operates a large number of outdoor amphitheaters.

## Frustration grows over wait on OxyContin maker's settlement

By GEOFF MULVHILL  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

More than a year after OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma reached a tentative settlement over the toll of opioids that was accepted nearly universally by the groups suing the company—including thousands of people injured by the drug—money is still not rolling out.

Parties waiting to finalize the deal are waiting for a court to rule on the legality of a key detail: whether members of the Sackler family who own the company can be protected from lawsuits over OxyContin in exchange for handing over up to \$6 billion in cash over time plus the company itself.

This week—days before the one-year anniversary of the April 29, 2022, appeals court arguments on the matter—

lawyers told judges that the wait is causing problems.

Lawyers on multiple sides of the case, including those representing Purdue, asked the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New York to issue a ruling or provide an update soon, saying the efforts to use the funds to fight the opioid crisis can't begin until the money can start to flow.

While it's not unusual for an appeals panel to take a year or more from a hearing until it releases a decision, this case was originally fast-tracked by the court. At the hearing last year, there were signs that the three-judge panel might not rule unanimously.

A lawyer for creditors told a U.S. bankruptcy court in another filing this week that the wait is a problem for other reasons. The lawyer, Arik Preis, wrote that as long as the

funds aren't distributed, "the vast majority of more than \$6 billion that could be put to use to abate the opioid crisis and compensate individual claimants continuing to accrue interest in Sackler accounts."

While most of Purdue's creditors have signed onto the settlement, the U.S. Bankruptcy Trustee is objecting.

With the case stretching out, the legal costs continue to mount, too. Purdue reported in a court filing that as of March 31, it had spent about \$900 million on nonrecurring legal fees since it filed for bankruptcy in 2019 as part of an effort to settle its lawsuits.

Purdue's proposed settlement is not the biggest in a series of opioid-related settlements in recent years that totals over \$50 billion, but it is large and closely watched because of the blame many have

given the company for its role in sparking the crisis with its marketing of OxyContin starting in the 1990s.

The settlement also is the only one so far where some of the money is to go directly to people who lost loved ones or years of their own lives to opioids. About 149,000 individuals made claims and could receive between about \$3,500 and \$48,000 each from the settlement.

One of them, Lindsey Arrington, does not know how much she'll qualify to be paid. The Everett, Washington, woman whose substance abuse disorder began with OxyContin she used as a teenager, said money would be helpful.

"I'm 12 years into my recovery from addiction and I'm still cleaning up the financial wreckage," she said.



# Nation

## Widening manhunt for Texas gunman slowed by 'zero leads'

**CLEVELAND, Texas** (AP)—A widening manhunt for a Texas gunman who fatally shot five neighbors continued coming up empty Sunday as officers knocked on doors, the governor put up \$50,000 in reward money and the FBI appeared no closer to catching the killer after nearly two days of searching with a team that has grown to hundreds of people.

"I can tell you right now, we have zero leads," James Smith, the FBI special agent in charge, told reporters while again asking the public for tips in the rural town of Cleveland, where the shooting took place just before midnight Friday.

The search for the gunman near Houston has grown in scale: Authorities said that by Sunday evening more than 200 police from multiple jurisdictions were searching for Francisco Oropeza, many of them going door to door in hopes of any clues that would lead to the 38-year-old suspect. Local officials and the FBI also chipped in reward money, bringing the total to \$80,000 for any information about Oropeza's whereabouts.

Oropeza is considered armed and dangerous after fleeing the area Friday night, likely on foot. San Jacinto County Sheriff Greg Capers said authorities had widened the search area beyond the scene of the shooting, which occurred after the suspect's neighbors asked him



Wilson Garcia, right, is consoled during a vigil for his son, Daniel Enrique Laso, 9, Sunday, April 30, 2023, in Cleveland, Texas.

to stop firing off rounds in his yard late at night because a baby was trying to sleep.

At a Sunday vigil in Cleveland, Wilson Garcia, the father of the 1-month-old, described the terrifying efforts inside his home by friends and family that night to escape, hide and shield themselves and children after Oropeza walked up to the home and began firing, killing his wife first at the front door.

Another of Garcia's children, 9-year-old Daniel Enrique Laso, was also killed. Garcia said he and two other people had gone to "respectfully"

ask Oropeza to shoot his gun farther away from the house, which is on a street where residents say it is not uncommon for neighbors to unwind by firing off guns.

Garcia said he walked away and called the police when Oropeza refused. It was 10 to 20 minutes later when he said he saw Oropeza loading his AR-style rifle while running toward the house.

"I told my wife, 'Get inside. This man has loaded his weapon,'" Garcia said. "My wife told me to go inside because, 'He won't fire

at me. I'm a woman.'"

Authorities have said at least five other people who were in the house at the time were uninjured.

During the early hours of the search, investigators found clothes and a phone while combing an area that includes dense layers of forest, but tracking dogs lost the scent, Capers said.

Authorities were able to identify Oropeza by an identity card issued by Mexican authorities to citizens who reside outside the country, as well as the doorbell camera footage.

He said police have also interviewed the suspect's wife multiple times.

Police recovered the AR-15-style rifle that they said Oropeza used in the shootings. Authorities were not sure if Oropeza was carrying another weapon after others were found in his home.

Capers said he hoped the reward money would motivate people to provide information and that there were plans to put up billboards in Spanish to spread the word.

"We're looking for closure for this family," Capers said.

By Sunday, police crime scene tape was removed from around the victims' home, where some people stopped by to leave flowers.

In the neighborhood, an FBI agent, Texas Department of Public Safety troopers and other officers were seen going door to door. One trooper stopped a red truck and asked to look inside before letting the driver continue on his way.

Veronica Pineda, 34, who lives across the street from the suspect's home, said authorities asked if they could search her property to see if he might be hiding there. She said she was fearful that the gunman had not yet been captured.

"It is kind of scary," she said. "You never know where he can be."

Pineda said she didn't know Oropeza well but occasionally

saw him, his wife and son ride their horses on the street. She said the family had lived there about five or six years and that neighbors have called authorities in the past to complain about people firing guns.

The victims were between the ages of 9 and 31 years old and all were believed to have been shot from the neck up, according to authorities. All were believed to be from Honduras.

Enrique Reina, Honduras' secretary of foreign affairs and international cooperation, said on Twitter that the Honduran Consulate in Houston was contacting the families in connection with the repatriation of remains as well as U.S. authorities to keep apprised of the investigation.

The FBI in Houston said in a tweet on Sunday that it was referring to the suspect as Oropesa, not Oropeza, to "better reflect his identity in law enforcement systems." His family lists their name as Oropeza on a sign outside their yard, as well as in public records. Authorities had also previously stated that Garcia's son was 8 years old, but the father and school officials said Sunday that the third grader was 9.

A total of three children found covered in blood in the home were taken to a hospital but found to be uninjured, Capers said. He said they were staying with family members.

## Biden's diverse coalition of support risks fraying in 2024

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Former Sen. Joe Lieberman, the Connecticut Democrat-turned-Independent long known for his centrist views, voted for Joe Biden in 2020. But as Biden's reelection campaign begins, Lieberman is preparing to recruit a third-party candidate capable of defeating the Democratic president.

"Centrists and moderates feel that he's governed more from the left than they hoped," Lieberman, a leader of the group, No Labels, said of Biden in an interview. "He hasn't been able to be the unifier that he promised to be."

Biden's political challenges are not confined to voters in the middle. In the days since he formally launched his 2024 campaign, key members of the sprawling political coalition that lifted him over former President Donald Trump in 2020 are far from excited about the prospect of four more years. That underscores the test confronting Biden as he aims to mo-

tivate the coalition of African Americans, Latinos, young people, suburban voters and independents to show up for him again.

John Paul Mejia, the 20-year-old spokesman for the progressive Sunrise Movement, says Biden has simply not done enough to ensure the young voters who rallied behind him in 2020 would do so again.

"Young people are starving for more," Mejia said, pointing to Biden's recent decision to approve two controversial fossil fuel projects in Alaska. "Biden has to demonstrate the extent to which he's willing to be a fighter. We've seen this sort of two-step on the promises he made to young people."

Biden has also struggled to fulfill key promises to Black voters, perhaps the most loyal group in his political base. While he tapped Ketanji Brown Jackson to become the first Black woman on the Supreme Court, he has been unable to follow

through on pledges to protect voting rights against a wave of Republican-backed restrictions or enact policing reform to help stop violence against people of color at the hands of law enforcement.

"There's work to be done," said Rep. Jasmine Crockett, D-Texas, a 42-year-old African American former civil rights attorney who joined Congress in January. "I'm not going to sugar coat it."

Crockett recalled the palpable excitement among the Black community for Barack Obama's reelection. With Biden, there's "a number of people who are concerned and scared" largely because of his age, while others are "indifferent and waiting," despite what she described as Biden's overall strong record of achievement.

Nearly 18 months before Election Day 2024, however, it's unclear how much this lack of enthusiasm will weigh on Biden's reelection prospects. For all the concern, no high-profile Demo-

cratic primary challengers have emerged, and none are expected to. To date, only progressive author Marianne Williamson and anti-vaccine activist Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

## Poll: Americans fault news media for dividing country

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—When it comes to the news media and the impact it's having on democracy and political polarization in the United States, Americans are likelier to say it's doing more harm than good.

Nearly three-quarters of U.S. adults say the news media is increasing political polarization in this country, and just under half say they have little to no trust in the media's ability to report the news fairly and accurately, according to a new survey from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights.

The poll, released before World Press Freedom Day on Wednesday, shows Americans have significant concerns about misinformation—and the role played by the media itself along

with politicians and social media companies in spreading it—but that many are also concerned about growing threats to journalists' safety.

"The news riles people up," said 53-year-old Barbara Jordan, a Democrat from Hutchinson, Kansas. Jordan said she now does her own online research instead of going by what she sees on the TV news.

"You're better off Googling something and learning about it. I trust the internet more than I do the TV."

That breakdown in trust may prompt many Americans to reject the mainstream news media, often in favor of social media and unreliable websites that spread misleading claims and that can become partisan echo chambers, leading to further polarization.

Biden announced that he was endorsing the president and encouraged other progressive leaders to do so as well.

"I intend to do everything I can to see that he is re-elected," Sanders said in an interview.

While a slim majority of Americans say they have some degree of confidence in the news media's ability to report the news fully and fairly, only 16% say they are very confident. Forty-five percent say they have little to no confidence at all.

The survey reveals the complicated relationship many Americans have with the media: A majority rate in-depth and investigative reporting as very helpful or extremely helpful for understanding the issues they care about, but they are more likely to say they regularly scan the headlines than read an in-depth investigative article. And while overall trust in the media is low, a majority of respondents say the media is doing at least somewhat well in covering issues they care about.



# Asia

AS TENSIONS GROW WITH CHINA

## Biden, Marcos set to meet

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden is set to host President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. of the Philippines for White House talks Monday as concerns grow about the Chinese navy's harassment of Philippine vessels in the South China Sea.

Marcos' visit to Washington comes after the U.S. and Philippines last week completed their largest war drills ever and as the two countries' air forces on Monday will hold their first joint fighter jet training in the Philippines since 1990. The Philippines this year agreed to give the U.S. access to four more bases on the islands as the U.S. looks to deter China's increasingly aggressive actions toward Taiwan and in the disputed South China Sea.

Meanwhile, China has angered the Philippines by repeatedly harassing its navy and coast guard patrols and chasing away fishermen in waters close to Philippine shores but which Beijing claims as its own.

Before departing for Washington on Sunday, Marcos said he was "determined to forge an ever stronger relationship with the United States in a wide range of areas that not only address the concerns of our times, but also those that are critical to advancing our core interests."

Monday's Oval Office meeting is the latest high-level diplomacy with Pacific leaders by Biden as his administration contends with increased military

and economic assertiveness by China and worries about North Korea's nuclear program. Marcos' official visit to Washington is the first by a Philippine president in more than 10 years.

The U.S. president hosted South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol for a state visit last week in which the two leaders introduced new steps aimed at deterring North Korea from launching an attack on neighbors. Biden is scheduled to travel to Japan and Australia in May.

The two sides are expected to discuss the security situation and come out with new economic, education, climate and other initiatives as part of Marcos' four-day visit to Washington, a senior administration official told The Associated Press.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to preview the visit, said Biden administration officials are looking to redevelop "habits of alliance building" with the Philippines as aspects of the historically complicated relationship have "atrophied" over the years.

Increased Chinese harassment of vessels in the South China Sea have added another dimension to the visit. On April 23, journalists from AP and other outlets were aboard the Philippine coast guard's BRP Malapascua near Second Thomas Shoal when a Chinese coast guard ship blocked the Philippine patrol vessel steaming into the disputed shoal. The Philippines has filed more

than 200 diplomatic protests against China since last year, at least 77 since Marcos took office in June.

State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller on Saturday called media reporting on the encounters a "stark reminder" of Chinese "harassment and intimidation of Philippine vessels as they undertake routine patrols within their exclusive economic zone. We call upon Beijing to desist from its provocative and unsafe conduct."

Close U.S.-Philippines relations were not a given when Marcos took office. The son and namesake of the late Philippines strongman had seemed intent on following the path of his predecessor, Rodrigo Duterte, who pursued closer ties with China.

Before Marcos took office last year, Kurt Campbell, coordinator for Indo-Pacific affairs on the White House National Security Council, acknowledged that "historical considerations" could present "challenges" to the relationship with Marcos Jr. It was an oblique reference to long-standing litigation in the United States against the estate of his father, Ferdinand Marcos.

A U.S. appeals court in 1996 upheld damages of about \$2 billion against the elder Marcos' estate for the torture and killings of thousands of Filipinos. The court upheld a 1994 verdict of a jury in Hawaii, where he fled after being forced from power in 1986. He died there in 1989.

a religious school in eastern Punjab province, officials said Sunday. Chaudhry Imran, a spokesman for the Khanewal district police, said the attack happened Saturday when the boy's uncle went to visit his nephew and arrived to find him being raped by a cleric in a side room of the school while another cleric waited. Imran said a complaint was filed by the boy's uncle alleging the 10-year-old was abused by two clerics in the seminary where he has been studying for the last year. Imran said police did an initial investigation and then arrested two suspects. He said the boy was admitted to a local hospital suffering trauma and physical injuries.

### UN urges Afghanistan's Taliban to reverse bans on women

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. Security Council unanimously approved a

resolution Thursday calling on Afghanistan's Taliban rulers to swiftly reverse their increasingly harsh restrictions on women and girls, which range from severely restricting education to banning women from most jobs, public spaces and gyms. The council condemned the Taliban's ban on women working for the U.N., a decision the resolution calls "unprecedented in the history of the United Nations." The unanimous 15-0 vote, with the United States, Russia and China all in favor, was a sign of the widespread global concerns over the Taliban's actions. It was a rare moment of unity on a high-profile issue at a time of steep international divisions over the Ukraine war, although both Russia and China criticized the United States after the vote for its past role in Afghanistan and for refusing to return all \$7 billion in frozen Afghan government funds.

# World

## Children killed in missile attack by Russia buried



Mourners place flowers on the coffins of Sofia Shulha, 11, and Pysarev Kiriusha, 17, during a funeral in Uman, central Ukraine, Sunday, April 30, 2023. AP

UMAN, Ukraine (AP)—Relatives and friends cried next to coffins on Sunday as they buried children and others killed in a Russian missile attack on this central Ukrainian city, while fighting claimed more lives elsewhere.

Almost all of the 23 victims of the attack on Friday died when two missiles slammed into an apartment building in Uman. Ukrainian Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko said six children were among the dead.

Mykhayl Shulha, 6, cried and hugged relatives next to the coffin of his 11-year-old sister Sofia Shulha during Sunday's funeral, while

others paid respects to a 17-year-old boy.

As mourners held candles, crossed themselves and sang, the priest at the Church of the Icon of the Mother of God "Quick to Hear" waved a vessel containing incense over the coffins. He said the deaths had hit the entire community hard.

"I live nearby," said Father Fyodor Botsu. "I personally knew the children, the littlest, from when they were very young, and I personally baptized them in this church. I'm worried with everyone since I have children and I'm a citizen of this country and have been living in this city for 15 years."

He said he prayed "that the war should end and peace

should come to our homes, city and country."

At the damaged building in Uman, people brought flowers and photos of the victims.

Russia's 14-month-long war brought more deaths elsewhere Sunday.

The governor of a Russian region bordering Ukraine said four people were killed in a Ukrainian rocket attack. The rockets hit homes in the village of Suzemka, nine kilometers (six miles) from the Ukrainian border, said Bryansk regional governor Alexander Bogomaz. He said two other residents were injured and that defense systems had knocked down some of the incoming shells.

## Sudan's army and rival extend truce, despite ongoing clashes

CAIRO (AP)—Sudan's army and its rival paramilitary said Sunday they will extend a humanitarian ceasefire a further 72 hours. The decision follows international pressure to allow the safe passage of civilians and aid, but the shaky truce has not so far stopped the clashes.

In statements, both sides accused the other of violations. The agreement has de-escalated the fighting in some areas but violence continues to push civilians to flee. Aid groups have also struggled to get badly needed supplies into the country.

The conflict erupted on April 15 between the nation's army and its paramilitary force, and threatens to thrust Sudan into a raging civil war. The U.N. warned on Sunday that the humanitarian crisis in Sudan was at

"a breaking point."

"The scale and speed of what is unfolding in Sudan is unprecedented," the U.N.'s humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths said in a statement.

He said water and food are becoming increasingly hard to find in the country's cities, especially the capital, Khartoum, and that the lack of basic medical care means many could die of preventable causes. Griffiths said that "massive looting" of aid supplies has hindered efforts to help civilians.

Earlier Sunday, an aircraft carrying eight tons of emergency medical aid landed in Sudan to resupply hospitals devastated by the fighting, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross, which organized the shipment. It arrived as the civilian death toll from the countrywide violence topped 400 and aid

groups warned that the humanitarian situation was becoming increasingly dire.

More than two-thirds of hospitals in areas with active fighting are out of service, a national doctors' association has said, citing a shortage of medical supplies, health workers, water and electricity.

The air-lifted supplies, including anesthetics, dressings, sutures and other surgical material, are enough to treat more than 1,000 people wounded in the conflict, the ICRC said. The aircraft took off earlier in the day from Jordan and safely landed in the city of Port Sudan, it said.

"The hope is to get this material to some of the most critically busy hospitals in the capital" of Khartoum and other hot spots, said Patrick Youssef, ICRC's regional director for Africa.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### 11 dead, 4 hospitalized in gas leak in northern India

NEW DELHI (AP)—Eleven people died and four more were hospitalized after a gas leak Sunday in northern India's Punjab state, local media reported. The incident occurred at an industrial area in Ludhiana city, but the source of the gas leak is still unclear, police told the Press Trust of India news agency. India's National Disaster Response Force sealed off the densely populated area and evacuated residents. Authorities were trying to ascertain the type of gas in the leak, PTI quoted disaster response officials as saying.

#### Pakistan police allege 2 clerics raped boy in seminary

MULTAN, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani police arrested two Muslim clerics for allegedly raping a 10-year-old boy in



## Overdrive

## Lexus RZ is a stylish, familiar, electric RX alternative

LEXUS/TNS

The 2023 Lexus RZ.

By HENRY PAYNE  
THE DETROIT NEWS

**ENCINITAS, California**—My Florida friends call the Lexus RX SUV their official state vehicle because so many retirees drive them around the streets of Naples, Tampa, Orlando and so on. That could be fertile ground for Lexus's first electric vehicle, the RZ.

Virtually identical to the RX in size and operation, the battery-driven RZ would make a smooth commuter in the metro confines where EVs excel.

And the RZ would get noticed even in the sea of Florida RXs. The Lexus's L-shaped headlamps, scalloped body panels and horizontal taillight signature are unmistakably Lexus, but RZ design differs in one important way from its RX (and smaller NX) siblings: the giant grille is gone.

Darth Vader mask, bug zipper, spindle grille, hourglass. Lexus's signature mouth goes by many nicknames, but it's unnecessary without an air-hungry gas-engine behind it to feed. So Lexus has cleverly painted the nose, giving it a friendlier, anamorphic look—think raccoon eyes on the base \$59,650 Premium model, and

an optional German Shepherd look on the \$65,150 Luxury trim.

It's very effective, at once making the nose less severe but also instantly recognizable as an EV. The car got noticed here in California, where Silicon Valley-birthing Tesla dominates the electric car segment. The blunt noses of Model Y and Model 3 EVs are a common sight in tony suburbs like Encinitas north of San Diego.

Indeed, the Tesla twins were the best-selling vehicles in California last year, staking out the moral green high ground that the Toyota Prius occupied 20 years ago.

The Prius—aka Pious—was the first vehicle to mine upscale greens' desire for battery-powered vehicles. All the cool kids had them, and Leo DiCaprio and Cameron Diaz drove them to the Oscars. Since then, hybrids have become more mainstream (today, the Toyota RAV4 hybrid outsells the Prius) and Tesla is the new darling of the chic crowd.

Unlike Prius (and the RX hybrid that soon followed in 2003), Lexus-Toyota has been less aggressive about entering the EV market. EVs are a very different animal from hybrids,

which simply extend the range of gas-engines using the same, ubiquitous gas infrastructure.

Unlike Prius, Toyota-Lexus (and its brand competitors) sees EVs as a luxury purchase. A second or third car in the household used for local commutes. RZ is built on the same battery platform as the Toyota bZ4x and Subaru Solterra—and like those carriages, Lexus believes the RZ will appeal to green hybrid customers already loyal to the brand and willing to pay a few bucks more for the latest green fashion. The same goes for Toyota's hybrid buyers and for Subaru's environmentally-conscious base.

I like the RZ's chances. Whereas the Toyota (which I tested on the same roads here last fall) and the Subie are significantly different than their family lineup in operation and price, RZ is a natural extension of the brand's popular RX and NX gas SUVs.

And RZ has an electronic yoke steering wheel. Ooooh.

While inferior to their gas counterparts in utility, EVs in the luxe class have proved alluring when they have paired innovation with electric power. Much of my Tesla Model 3's range shortcomings are made

up for by its innovation: over-the-air updates, automated driving, big touchscreen, voice commands, Summon, self-park and so on. Other EVs have followed.

Innovation makes the 10-grand price premium and range anxiety easier to swallow. RZ and Model Y competitors in the \$60K range like the Cadillac Lyriq (jumbotronic screen & light show), Genesis GV60 (Summon-like, remote self-park), Kia EV6 GT (gob-smacking acceleration) and Ford F-150 Lightning (mega-frunk) have all wowed with their own gizmos.

The yoke steering wheel is hardly new to the segment (see Tesla), but Lexus advances the idea in RZ by making it electric. Where conventional steering wheels (including Tesla's yoke) require 540-degree rotation to maneuver a car, RZ's e-steering does the trick with 140 degrees.

This is a variable steering wheel that adapts to your speed. I maneuvered through a Carlsbad parking lot with smaller inputs than a regular wheel. No arm-crossing, no muscle required. At speed over SoCal's twisty secondary byways, the wheel required familiar inputs

while giving me an unobstructed view of the instrument display and road beyond.

Lexus hasn't put a date to when the yoke will go on sale, but journalist guinea pigs got extensive time with the system here. Like Tesla's Full Self-Driving system, I'd recommend it to the adventurous.

The Lexus also has a sense of humor like Tesla (whoopie cushions, Plaid mode, etc.). "Hey, Lexus, tell me a joke," I said to the SUV as if talking to a buddy in the locker room.

"Why can't you trust trees?" said a voice from the screen. "Because they are shady."

New toys and nose aside, RZ is similar to the RX, adapting the latter's latest (and much improved) touchscreen and climate knobs. There are standard features galore. Wireless Apple CarPlay/Android Auto, wireless charging, interior mood lighting, adaptive cruise control, blind-spot assist, all-wheel drive, panoramic roof, the works. Step up to the Luxury trim and the pano roof goes opaque with the touch of a button. Alas, no frunk or glovebox for added storage. And no wood or leather so as not to offend green morals.

## NUTS &amp; BOLTS

- **Vehicle type:** Battery-powered, all-wheel-drive five-passenger SUV
- **Price:** \$59,650, including \$1,150 destination fee (\$63,415 Premium and \$67,300 Luxury models as tested)
- **Powerplant:** 71.4 kWh lithium-ion battery with dual electric-motors
- **Power:** 309 horsepower, 435 pound-feet torque
- **Transmission:** Single-speed direct drive
- **Performance:** 0-60 mph, 5.1 seconds (mfr. est.); top speed, 99 mph
- **Weight:** 4,662 pounds (Luxury model as tested)
- **Fuel economy:** EPA MPGe NA; range, 220 miles (18-inch wheels), 196 miles (20-inch wheels as tested)
- Report card**
- **Highs:** More pleasing Lexus styling; standard tech features galore
- **Lows:** No date on yoke steering wheel yet; lacks faster-charging capability of competitors
- **Overall:** ★★

## Where's my second key fob?

**Q:** We took delivery of a new Toyota in late 2022. The dealer gave us only one key fob and said that the second would be delivered sometime later. We are at four months now and still no key fob. I have checked with the dealer every month and get the same "I don't know" answer. Do your contacts have any idea when we might see them?

**E.M., St. Charles, Illinois**

**A:** I'm afraid I can't twist any arms. But if you are getting stonewalled by the salesperson or parts department, ask to see the dealer principal. If that gets you nowhere and you desperately need another fob, they are available online, but need a locksmith or car dealer to program them.

**Q:** Thank you for your continuing column on automotive advice. I worked on cars a lot when I was in my teen years and early 20s, and I appreciate the details and common sense that you offer. I have questions about my vehicle's timing chain. When I saw your column (published in 2021), it reinvigorated some of the discussions I had about the timing setup for my 2005 Toyota Scion xB. I noted at the time that it was a timing chain (like the triple primary drive chain on my Harley, with metal links as I imagined it). Does the fact that Toyota calls it a chain make a difference in wear and tear and longevity? Do you have any specific replace-

ment advice for a car such as this with 210,000 miles on it? I have seen posting of people's cars with over 400,000 miles, and so I hope to keep it for quite some time.

**P.C., Clarendon Hills, Illinois**

**A:** Timing chains traditionally have no service interval. They last the life of the vehicle. Keep on motoring!

**Q:** I am an ASE-certified Master mechanic with 30 years of Cadillac dealer experience and I can't tell you how many oil economy tests I have performed on customers' cars equipped with the infamous HT4100, HT4500, HT4900 engines. I hope this information will shed some light on oil economy usage. One quart per every 1,000 miles is the industry standard. All modern engines use oil, some more than others as you stated, but here is the main reason why. As manufacturer's look for more ways to increase fuel economy, one way is to reduce internal engine drag from the rotating components, mainly the great amount of drag from the pistons going up and down in the cylinders. So, they reduced the amount of tension on all the piston rings thereby creating a rotating assembly that turns over much more freely and causes the engine to operate much more efficiently.

**L.C., Chicago**

**A:** Th-th-that's it, folks. Check your oil levels regularly.

## MOTORMOUTH

By BOB WEBER  
Tribune News Service

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Weber's work has appeared in professional trade magazines and various consumer publications including Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.



**Q:** Your comment about the minimum amount of space (10 inches) to have between the steering wheel and the driver prompts me to ask about a related issue: Both of my sons-in-law like to drive with their seat tilted back quite far. It has occurred to me that if their airbag deployed it would smack them in the face rather than the chest. This seems dangerous to me, both in terms of the injury that it could cause them, and the airbag being less effective generally than it should be.

**B.C., Minneapolis**

**A:** In the blink of an eye, the airbag inflates, but stays put. The passenger then flies into the bag.



# Life & Style

## ‘Super Mario Bros. Movie’ hits \$1B, is No. 1 for 4 weeks

**NEW YORK (AP)**—It’s still Mario Time at the box office. “The Super Mario Bros. Movie” led ticket sales for the fourth straight weekend in U.S. and Canadian theaters with \$40 million as the global haul for the Universal Pictures release surpassed \$1 billion, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The Nintendo videogame adaptation dominated the month of April in theaters, smashing records along the way. Over the weekend, it faced little new competition, though that will change next week when Marvel’s “Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3” kicks off the summer movie calendar and is expected to move Mario to the side. Studios spent the last week at CinemaCon in Las Vegas promoting coming blockbusters and promising big returns at the summer box office.

“The Super Mario Bros. Movie” was estimated to easily cross \$1 billion in worldwide box office Sunday, making it the 10th animated film to reach that milestone and the first since 2019. With a domestic total thus far of \$490 million, international sales are

even stronger. The Illumination-animated release took in \$68.3 million overseas over the weekend, pushing its international haul to \$532.5 million. Second place went to “Evil Dead Rise.” The horror sequel from Warner Bros. held well in its second week, especially for a horror film, dipping 50% with \$12.2 million.

Among the weekend’s newcomers, the Judy Blume adaptation “Are You There God? It’s Me, Margaret,” fared the best. The Lionsgate release grossed \$6.8 million in 3,343 locations, a decent start for the \$30 million-budgeted coming-of-age tale written and directed by Kelly Fremon Craig (“The Edge of Seventeen”).

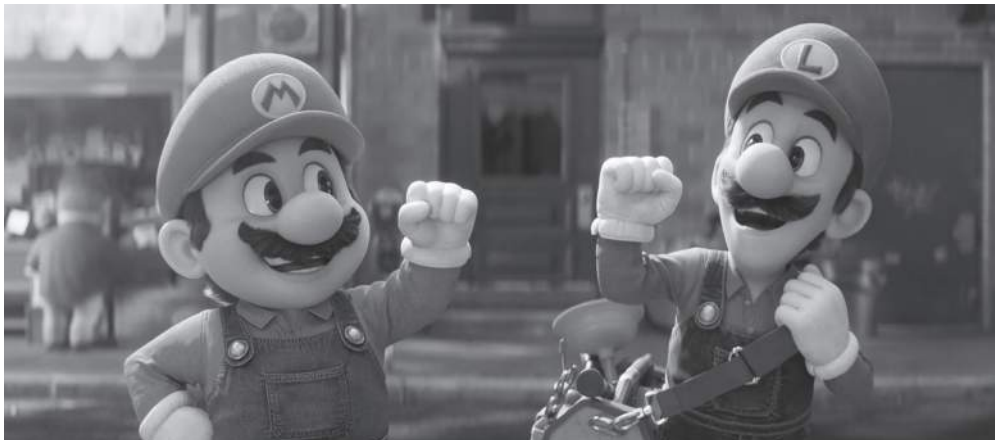
As expected, “Are You There God? It’s Me, Margaret,” about an 11-year-old (Abby Ryder Fortson) going through puberty, drew an overwhelming female audience. With stellar reviews (99% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) and strong audience scores (an “A” CinemaScore), “Are You There God? It’s Me Margaret,” should play well through Mother’s Day.

Lionsgate also released the

Finnish action movie “Sisu” in 1,006 locations. The film, about a prospector (Jorma Tommila) whose gold is stolen by Nazis, grossed an estimated \$3.3 million. That was a solid result for the rare international film to receive a nationwide opening. Reviews have been good (93% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) for writer-director Jalmari Helander’s film.

“Sisu” managed to surpass the weekend’s most heavyweight new release: “Big George Foreman: The Miraculous Story of the Once and Future Heavyweight Champion of the World.” The film, from Sony’s Christian production company Affirm Films, gives a faith-based twist to the sports biopic. But after getting dinged by bad review, it didn’t punch very hard, with \$3 million in 3,054 theaters.

Nida Manzoor’s “Polite Society,” about a British-Pakistani high-schooler (Priya Kansara) with dreams of becoming a stuntwoman, debuted with \$800,000 in 927 theaters. The Focus Features film, one of the standouts of January’s Sundance Film Festival, blends



NINTENDO AND UNIVERSAL STUDIOS VIA AP

This image released by Nintendo and Universal Studios shows Mario, voiced by Chris Pratt, left, and Luigi, voiced by Charlie Day in Nintendo’s “The Super Mario Bros. Movie.”

kung-fu with Jane Austen in a story about London sisters.

One of the weekend’s biggest successes was a familiar box-office force. The Walt Disney Co.’s rerelease of “Star Wars: Return of the Jedi” grossed \$4.7 million in just 475 theaters. Disney put “Jedi” (the 1997 special edition version) back into theaters to commemorate the 1983 film’s 40th anniversary.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

- “The Super Mario Bros. Movie,” \$40 million.
- “Evil Dead Rise,” \$12.2 million.
- “Are You There, God? It’s Me, Margaret,” \$6.8 million.

- “John Wick: Chapter 4,” \$5 million.
- “Star Wars: Return of the Jedi,” \$4.7 million.
- “Dungeons and Dragons: Honor Among Thieves,” \$4.1 million.
- “Air,” \$4 million.
- “Ponniyin Selvan: Part Two,” \$3.6 million.
- “The Covenant,” \$3.6 million.
- “Sisu,” \$3.3 million.

## Louis Vuitton turns Seoul bridge into massive runway

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)**—Louis Vuitton transformed a bridge spanning the Han River into a massive runway for its latest collection Saturday.

Models strutted down the Jamsilgyo Bridge to music to showcase the luxury fashion house’s pre-fall collection that included sunglasses, chunky black-and-white loafers and sandals as well as an assort-

ment of large, colorful bags and smaller ones adorned with the label’s logo.

The audience for Louis Vuitton’s first South Korea show included a mix of K-pop stars including Taeyeon from Girls’ Generation, members of Le Sserafim and Yeji from ITZY and celebrities like Chloë Grace Moretz, Jaden Smith and “Squid Game” director

Hwang Dong-hyuk.

The show opened with a burst of traditional Korean music before the lighting changed and cast the bridge in an eerie blue.

Global luxury brands have been keen recently to expand into South Korea with the rise of K-pop music and global interest in the country’s film and television projects.

## Known for laughs, DC dinner spotlights risks to journalism

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—The White House Correspondents’ Association dinner—known for its fun albeit ferocious jabs at Washington—took a more solemn tone this year as President Joe Biden acknowledged the several American journalists under siege in authoritarian countries around the world.

“We are here to send a message to the country and, quite frankly, to the world: The free press is a pillar, maybe the pillar, of a free society, not the enemy,”

Biden said in his speech.

The president and first lady Jill Biden, upon arriving at the Washington Hilton on Saturday, met privately with the parents of Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich, who has been imprisoned in Russia since March. He was charged with spying, despite strong denials from his employer and the U.S. government. Some guests wore buttons with “Free Evan” printed on them.

Also among the 2,600

people attending the gala was Debra Tice, the mother of Austin Tice, who has not been heard from since disappearing at a checkpoint in Syria in 2012. U.S. officials say they operate under the assumption that he is alive and are working to try to bring him home.

“Journalism is not a crime,” Biden said. “Evan and Austin should be released immediately along with every other American detained abroad.” He said: “I promise you, I am working like hell to get them home.”

## Son wants to meet someone but doesn’t know where to look

**DEAR ABBY:** My son will celebrate his 40th birthday soon. He was diagnosed with schizophrenia at 15 and basically lost the years between 15 and 21. Thankfully, at 21, he was given medication that changed his life, and he has been well ever since.

He has always wanted a wife and family. Even when he was in his worst mental state, that one desire prevailed. But other than when he was 15, he has never been on a date. I have encouraged him to try a dating service or two, but his lack of self-confidence keeps him from trying. He told me he has never had a real conversation with a woman. His work also keeps him isolated. Still, he insists he very much wants to be dating by the time he hits 40. Any suggestions?

**MOM WHO CARES IN FLORIDA**

**DEAR MOM:** I do have a couple. Encourage your son to join groups centered around subjects or activities he might be interested in. Whether he meets the love of his life in one of them is beside the point. It will provide him the opportunity to talk with people of the opposite sex and sharpen his social skills.

It might also benefit you to research an organization called NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (nami.org). This group, which has been in existence for

45 years, will give you the opportunity to meet other families who are dealing with a loved one who has a mental illness. NAMI offers support groups and literature on various topics involving the emotional support of someone who is mentally ill. It also helps to create public policy benefiting people with mental challenges.

■■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** My daughter’s marriage is falling apart. Her husband has not worked during their six-year marriage. He drinks and uses tobacco to mask what I believe are depression, anxiety and other emotional issues. They have two young children, and my daughter cannot get through to him.

I’d like to contact his mother and express to her that until he gets some kind of professional help to deal with his problems, nothing will change. I want him and their marriage to be a success. My daughter and grandchildren deserve it. I don’t want to cause problems with his family, but until they face the facts, this marriage is doomed. Would I be overstepping by contacting his family? -- PROACTIVE MOTHER IN THE WEST

■■■■

**DEAR MOTHER:** Did all of this start when your son-in-law married your daughter, or did he have emotional

## DEAR ABBY

**BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

**problems before? Not knowing him, I can’t guess whether he needs a psychotherapist or an alcohol intervention. One thing is certain: Until all of this is brought out into the open, nothing will change.**

**In-laws ARE allowed to speak with each other. I don’t think it would be overstepping to express to his mother how worried you are about her son’s drinking and his inability to hold a job. But I’d clear it with your daughter first.**

■■■■

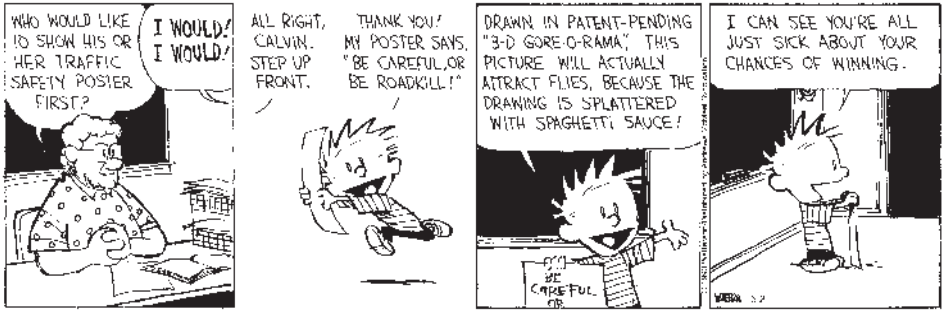
Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



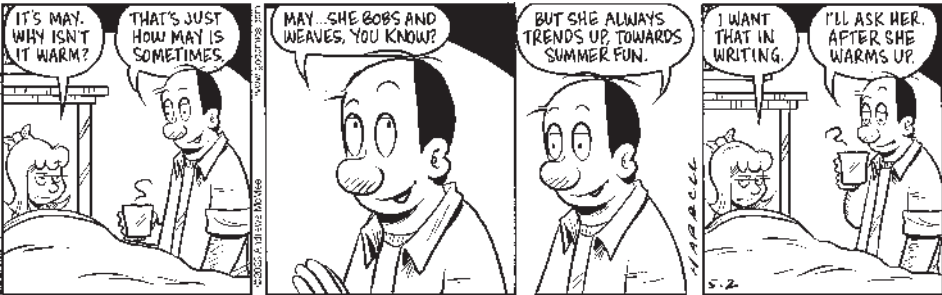
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Docking site  
5 Online guffaw  
8 Dressed  
12 Region  
13 — Jima  
14 Paella ingredient  
15 Small monkey  
17 — "Rock"  
18 Hot tub  
19 Shortened a skirt, say  
21 "Be silent," in music  
24 Lose color  
25 Abrades  
26 Style of Mexican music  
30 Rage  
31 Custom  
32 Mischief  
33 SNL cast member Hernandez  
35 Hindu royal  
36 Staffer

**DOWN**

1 "The Office" character  
2 Playwright  
3 Always, in verse  
4 Exodus pharaoh  
5 "Mona —"  
6 Have bills  
7 Casanova  
8 Yalta's peninsula  
9 Actor  
10 Pinnacle  
11 Conked out  
16 Select, with "for"  
20 Redact  
21 Decorate  
22 Mystique  
23 Trucker with a handle  
24 Aesopian tale  
26 Sea-sickness  
27 Scorch  
28 Sharpen  
29 Nile wader  
31 Successor  
34 Reasons  
35 Formally approve  
37 La —, Bolivia  
38 Yuletide tune  
39 With skill  
40 Scrabble piece  
41 Beach crawler  
44 Onassis nickname  
45 Soup legume  
46 S dispenser  
47 "Illmatic" rapper

**Solution time: 22 mins.**

G	A	S	C	O	M	B	S	E	P	A
Y	A	K	L	B	L	H	I	L	U	X
M	A	F	I	O	W	E	R	A	M	F
C	A	M	E	O	S	K	W	O	N	
A	G	A	S	T	Y	S	W	E	D	E
G	O	G	H	S	E	A	S	M	O	G
E	G	G	C	N	S	N	L	A	D	A
I	O	U	S	C	A	N	Y	O	N	
T	I	E	D	T	O	H	U	D		
O	H	M	M	A	Y	O	R	A	L	I
M	O	A	E	V	E	R	I	Y	E	A
S	P	Y	G	F	R	S	T	F	I	M

**Yesterday's answer 5-2**

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Gaius Charles, 40; Ellie Kemper, 43; David Beckham, 48; Dwayne Johnson, 51.

**Happy Birthday:** Protect what you've worked so hard to acquire. Don't trust others to look out for your interests or investments or handle what's important to you. A demonstrative attitude will ward off outside interference. Show confidence in all that you do and say, and you'll customize your life to ensure you reach your goals. Be honest with yourself and others to avoid emotional overtures. Your numbers are 7, 18, 22, 24, 30, 39, 46.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Observation will offer insight into someone's motives. Understanding what you must give up will ensure you get what you want. Keep personal information to yourself to avoid an uncomfortable position. \*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Home improvement projects will pay off. Decluttering your space will ease stress and motivate you to take better care of yourself and your possessions. A compassionate attitude will help you address personal issues tactfully, and you'll save yourself grief and money. \*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Walk away from drama. Opportunities are apparent if you focus on what's important and beneficial. A chance to expand your interests will help shape the way you work and live. Question the emotional intentions of others before you share your secrets. \*\*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Invest in something solid and lasting, not in someone else's dream. Helping others can improve your relationships, but if money is

involved, you are likely to experience the opposite outcome. A unique approach to your responsibilities will bring positive results. \*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Communication will make you aware of what's possible. Ask questions, collaborate with people you can learn from and be quick to take advantage of a rare opportunity that comes your way. Partner with someone who shines where you lack. \*\*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Proceed with an open mind and a will to learn. Your discipline and hard work will pay off if you don't let your emotions and personal life interfere with your responsibilities. Someone will be eager to make you look bad. \*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Look for ways to lower your overhead. Avoid impulse buying and taking on more debt than you can afford. Spend more time working on presentation and personal gain. Update your qualifications and resume to fit the position that interests you. \*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Keep the ball rolling. Don't lose sight of your goal or your personal or professional associates. Maintaining balance and integrity will be necessary if you want to form strong alliances with like-minded people. Distance yourself from situations that cost you emotionally. \*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Spend more time getting to know someone who interests you, and you'll gain insight into who you are and what you want. Strive for perfection, and pay attention to detail instead of taking on so much that you fall short of your expectations. \*\*\*\*

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** How you earn and handle your money is crucial. Consider your living arrangements and how they affect your life and daily routine. A flawless seam between professional and personal life will ease stress and help you set a budget you can sustain. \*\*\*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Learn from your mistakes, and you'll find a safe way to make your money grow. How you invest, budget and put an end to over-indulgence will determine the outcome. Shared expenses or joint endeavors will lead to disappointment and sorrow. \*\*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Do what comes naturally. Don't second-guess yourself or trust someone else to take care of your interests. Change your fitness routine to suit your lifestyle. Say no to temptation and offers that lack substance. Save for something special. \*\*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You are tactful, disciplined and organized. You are ambitious and demonstrative.

**©: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. \*\*:** You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. \*\*\*: Focus and you'll reach your goals. \*\*\*\*: Aim high; start new projects. \*\*\*\*\*: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		4	2	6	5	9		8	
			7					4	
				1					
5								6	
2		8	4		5				
9	4	6		5	7			1	
5	3	2						1	9
4	9	7		8	2	6			
1				9	3		2	7	

Difficulty: ★★ 5/2  
©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's Answer

4	8	9	6	5	7	1	2	3
1	2	7	9	3	8	5	4	6
3	6	5	4	2	1	7	9	8
2	7	6	5	8	4	9	3	1
8	3	4	1	9	2	6	7	5
5	9	1	7	6	3	4	8	2
6	5	2	3	4	9	8	1	7
7	4	3	8	1	6	2	5	9
9	1	8	2	7	5	3	6	4

Difficulty: ★ 5/1

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

**Clued by Lucie** Solution: 6 letters

S	S	E	N	I	S	U	B	S	T	E	K	R	A	M
U	D	A	S	D	O	O	G	H	T	L	A	E	W	A
O	N	S	P	E	N	D	S	T	G	O	L	D	I	T
R	U	S	I	D	B	O	N	U	S	W	R	S	N	E
E	F	E	R	A	I	E	P	G	L	N	L	E	N	R
P	L	T	T	S	M	S	N	U	O	P	E	L	I	I
S	T	S	A	Y	H	I	C	I	R	E	R	N	A	
O	S	V	A	A	N	O	T	O	L	C	N	U	G	L
R	E	P	R	R	N	C	C	B	U	T	H	I	S	A
P	T	E	A	I	A	E	M	B	A	N	K	A	A	R
R	N	E	S	S	E	A	O	K	C	O	T	S	S	G
O	O	A	N	D	G	I	N	T	E	R	E	S	T	E
F	C	A	S	H	M	E	E	D	E	R	I	S	K	R
I	R	S	U	P	P	L	Y	C	N	E	R	R	U	C
T	N	E	M	Y	O	L	P	M	E	S	T	A	T	E

© 2023 Andrews McMeel Syndication. www.mcmeel.com 5/2  
Assets, Bank, Bonus, Business, Cash, Casino, Contest, Currency, Discount, Earnings, Employment, Estate, Funds, Gain, Gamble, Gold, Goods, Interest, Larger, Market, Material, Money, Payment, Proceeds, Profit, Prosperous, Purchase, Redeem, Risk, Save, Sell, Share, Spend, Stock, Store, Supply, Surplus, Transaction, Trips, Wealth, Winnings  
**Yesterday's Answer: Trophy**  
The NEW Volume 70 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.



# Butler, Heat start 2nd round with 108-101 win over Knicks



**NEW YORK** (AP)—Jimmy Butler looked his coach in the eye and said he was staying in the game, no matter how much his ankle might have hurt.

The Miami Heat needed all season to turn into the team they expected, so no way Butler wants to miss a minute of it now.

Butler had 25 points and 11 rebounds, and the No. 8-seeded Heat kept rolling after barely reaching the postseason, beating the New York Knicks 108-101 on Sunday in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference semifinals.

"We're just playing great basketball," Butler said in a postgame interview on the court with ABC, while still showing a limp after a fourth-quarter ankle sprain.

"We're together, at home, on the road, through the good and through the bad. We believe that we can do something special."

Gabe Vincent scored 20 points for the Heat, who became the sixth No. 8 seed to beat a No. 1 when they toppling Milwaukee in the first round. They continue to look nothing like a team that was only three games above .500 when they reached April and needed to win a play-in game just to get the final postseason berth in the East.

They averaged 124 points in that series behind Butler's 37.6 per game, but they pulled this one out with old-fashioned de-

fense and rebounding that has always worked so well before for them at this time of year.

"It's the playoffs, number one. You expect it to be tough," coach Erik Spoelstra said. "Two, just because the regular season didn't go the way we wanted it to go or other people wanted it to go, doesn't mean we weren't developing grit and tough habits and good things. It wasn't just from the play-in."

RJ Barrett scored 26 points and Jalen Brunson had 25 for the fifth-seeded Knicks, who are in the second round of the playoffs for the first time since 2013. They started strong and led most of the first half, but the Heat eventually got the Madison Square Garden crowd quieter and quieter as the game went on.

Game 2 is Tuesday night.

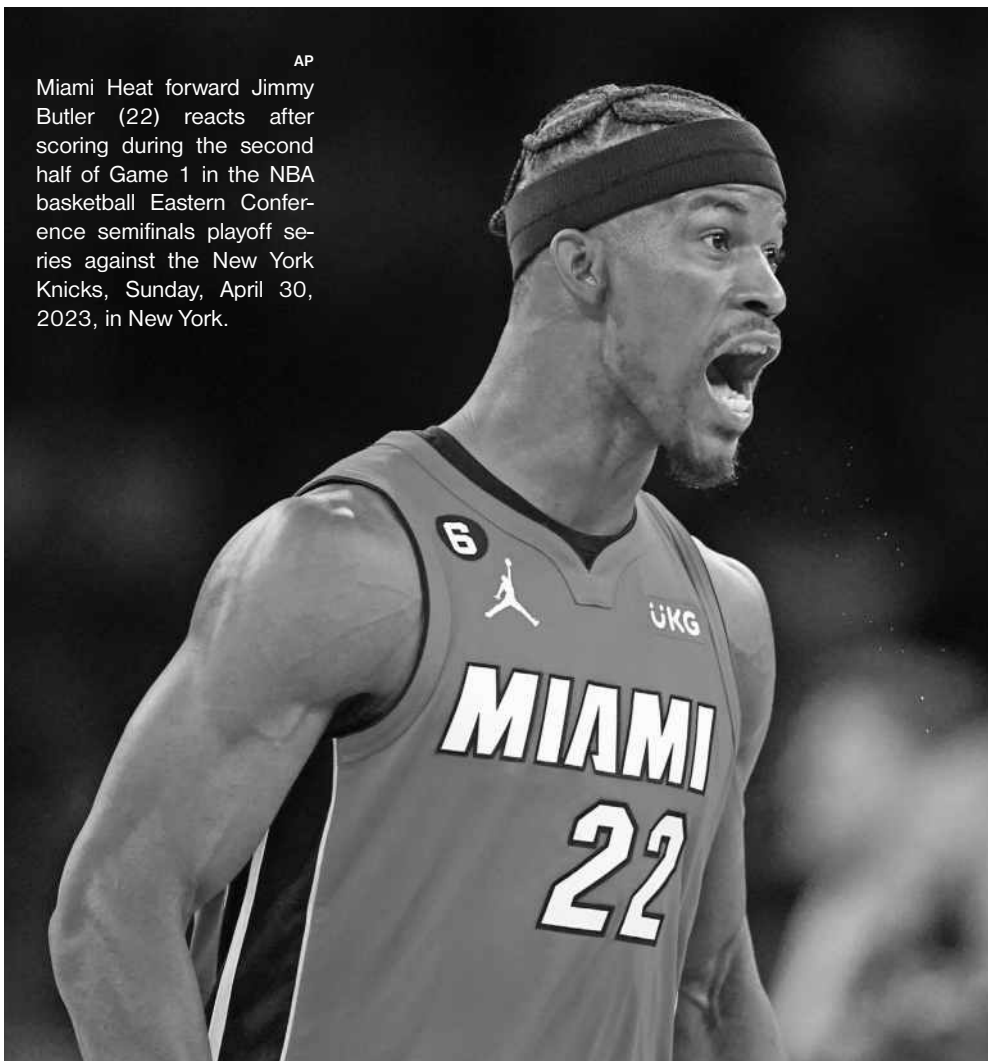
The Knicks were without All-Star forward Julius Randle because of a sprained left ankle and they surely missed him when the transition points dried up and it became a half-court game.

They could've used his shooting on a day they went 7 for 34 behind the arc, missing a chance to break open the game early and then hindering any chances of coming back. Brunson was 0 for 7 from outside and committed five turnovers.

"I was horrific," he said. "Very uncharacteristic by me and this one's on me. I've got to be better."

The Heat fell behind by 12 points in the second quarter,

AP  
Miami Heat forward Jimmy Butler (22) reacts after scoring during the second half of Game 1 in the NBA basketball Eastern Conference semifinals playoff series against the New York Knicks, Sunday, April 30, 2023, in New York.



but that wasn't going to faze a team that eliminated deficits of 15 and then 16 points in the last two games against Milwaukee. They gradually narrowed the deficit before halftime, blew by the Knicks with a 21-5 run in the third quarter and pulled away to a double-digit lead in the fourth.

They did it without needing the type of huge performances Butler delivered in the first round, when he scored 56 and 42 points in the final two games. He did plenty of other things they needed, including staying in the game after getting hurt with 5:05 to play, remaining on the court for a while and then limping to the bench during a timeout before coming back out to shoot the free throws.

"He reassured me that he wasn't going to be a liability and he wanted to stay in there and make sure we get this win," Spoelstra said.

Butler gave the Heat a good start in a renewal of what was once a fierce rivalry, with the teams meeting four straight years from 1997-2000. The Knicks won the last three of those but have work to do if they're going to take this one.

Getting Randle back would be a good start. He reinjured his ankle in Game 5 against Cleveland after missing the final five games of the regular season and hadn't done much since the Knicks returned to practice. He went through a workout before the game, but the Knicks ruled him out about 45 minutes before the start.

"Any time you're down, especially an All-Star like him,

you're going to miss him and we did tonight," Barrett said.

New York led 61-53 early in the third before Kevin Love converted a three-point play to trigger a 21-5 spurt by Miami. He added a 3-pointer during it, but his biggest contribution was with his outlet passing. With new Jets quarterback Aaron Rodgers sitting court-side, Love fired three long passes for scores, with Butler's basket on the last one capping the run and giving the Heat a 74-66 lead.

## WARRIORS 120, KINGS 100

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** (AP)—With his big-game swagger on display for the world and that signature mouthpiece dangling from a celebratory grin, Stephen Curry drove fearlessly to the basket with jaw-dropping acrobatics all afternoon and he fired with precision from way back in a Game 7 extravaganza for the ages.

He even playfully pretended to push the button and Light the Beam, Sacramento-style.

Curry scored a playoff career-high 50 points in the most prolific Game 7 performance ever and answered time and again to will the Warriors on in their quest for a repeat, sending Golden State into the Western Conference semifinals with a 120-100 win against the Sacramento Kings in Sunday's winner-take-all Game 7.

Curry led a memorable comeback in the series, too, perhaps improbable even for the defending champions when they got down 2-0

and given their road woes all season.

"It's amazing 'cuz you're still in the fight," Curry said. "Better than the alternative of on the outside looking in. Having been down 0-2 in this series, nothing was guaranteed, you don't take anything for granted."

Curry's points are the most in NBA history in a Game 7, topping former teammate Kevin Durant's 48 for the Nets against Milwaukee in 2021.

"For Steph to be the first player ever to get 50 in a Game 7, he's sublime," coach Steve Kerr said.

Kevon Looney grabbed 21 rebounds for a Warriors team that needed to win twice on the road facing a hostile, cowbell-clanging crowd in the state capital to become the first reigning champion to drop the first two games and win any postseason series.

Now, bring on LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers in the Western Conference semifinals with all that NBA Finals history between James and Golden State dating to his Cleveland days. Game 1 is Tuesday night at Chase Center.

Sacramento's special comeback season is over long before these young Kings had planned. After snapping a 16-year playoff drought—longest in NBA history—under Coach of the Year Mike Brown, playoff-starved Sacramento missed advancing to the second round for the first time since 2004.

Curry shot 20 of 38 with seven 3s and delivered after almost every big play by Sac-

ramento as Splash Brother Klay Thompson struggled on both ends again. But Thompson came through in some crucial moments.

"What an incredible performance," Thompson said. "This is a Game 7 I'll forever remember as the Steph Curry game."

Malik Monk's putback and three-point play with 14.6 seconds remaining in the third pulled Sacramento within six only for Thompson to hit a long 3 and convert a four-point play to make it 91-81 heading into the final 12 minutes.

Domantas Sabonis had 22 points, eight rebounds and seven assists but the Warriors held De'Aaron Fox in check as he scored 16 points on 5-for-19 shooting in his third game playing with a broken index finger on his shooting hand.

Trailing 58-56 at halftime, the Warriors opened the second half with a 13-4 burst and held the Kings to 42 points after intermission.

Sacramento had scored early on with a beautiful combination of classic give-and-goes and long jumpers off crisp passing around the perimeter.

But Curry kept coming, and Looney kept scrapping to create second and third opportunities to cap his brilliant series on the boards. They sent Kings fans to the exits late in the fourth.

Thompson began 1 for 10 missing his first five 3s before connecting at the 9:18 mark of the third and finishing with 16 points on 4-for-19 shooting — "disgusting," he said — while playing smothering defense. Golden State, playing just its fourth Game 7 under Kerr since the 2014-15 title run, was smart down the stretch after 18 turnovers in Game 6 led to 23 Kings points and Kerr calling his team "wildly undisciplined."

Kerr had no doubt before the deciding game — and he went back to Draymond Green in the starting lineup for Game 7 with the season on the line after the fiery forward came off the bench the previous three contests following a Game 3 suspension for stepping on Sabonis.

Just before the final buzzer, Kerr offered a long embrace to Brown—Golden State's former top assistant who once coached the Warriors on the postseason stage during Kerr's extended health absence and just guided the Kings' remarkable turnaround.

"I can't dream of nothing like this, gotta see it in person," Monk said of all the successes. "You can't dream anything like this unless you're doing it. Looking forward to being back next year."

## Grizzlies' Dillon Brooks fined \$25K for not talking to media

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Grizzlies sparkplug Dillon Brooks did all kinds of talking on and off the court during Memphis' first-round playoff series against the Los Angeles Lakers.

But his decision not to talk to the media after some playoff losses, including Game 6, which was the worst playoff loss in franchise history and ended the Grizzlies' season, will cost him \$25,000 in league fines.

The NBA said Sunday in a news release that Brooks violated league rules for "media interview access" by not participating in "team postgame media availability" during the playoffs. Brooks bolted from the Memphis locker room after Friday's series loss before reporters were allowed inside.

Hi latest discipline follows his ejection from Game 3 for striking LeBron James in the groin. That was after he called James "old," em-

braced his nickname "Dillon the Villain" and led the NBA with 18 technical fouls this season, earning a pair of one-game suspensions in the process.

It's also the second fine for Brooks this year, with the 6-foot-6 forward/guard having to pay \$35,000 for shoving a camera person on the sideline while chasing a loose ball in Miami in March (he later apologized). He also was suspended a game in February for hitting the Cavaliers' Donovan Mitchell in the groin, costing him \$78,621 in pay, according to Spotrac.com.

This was the last season of the 27-year-old's contract with the Grizzlies, and he'll be an unrestricted free agent in the offseason. Memphis general manager Zach Kleiman has said about Brooks' future with the Grizzlies: "I'll hit on DB another day. Nothing I can comment on."



# Ohtani sets Statcast-era mark for highest HR vs Brewers



MILWAU-  
KEE (AP)—  
S h o h e i

Ohtani hit a third-inning home run off Colin Rea that reached 162 feet above the field, the highest since Statcast started tracking in 2015, and helped the Los Angeles Angels beat the Milwaukee Brewers 3-0 on Sunday to avoid a three-game sweep.

Ohtani hit his seventh home run of the season on an 85.9 mph cutter from Rea (0-2). Ohtani is batting .394 (13 for 33) in his last eight games and .294 for the season.

José Suarez (1-1) allowed two hits in five innings with six strikeouts and three walks.

Rea struck out a career-high nine in five innings, allowing three hits and a walk.



Los Angeles Angels' Shohei Ohtani watches his solo home run during the third inning of a baseball game against the Milwaukee Brewers, Sunday, April 30, 2023, in Milwaukee.

## ASTROS 4, PHILLIES 3 HOUSTON (AP)—

Jake Meyers homered, Martín Maldonado ended his 0-for-24 slump with an RBI double and Houston defeated Philadelphia to avoid a three-game sweep.

The Astros beat Philadelphia in six games to win last year's World Series. But the Phillies dominated the first two games of the rematch, winning by a combined score of 9-2.

Kody Clemens homered for a second straight game and J.T. Realmuto also went deep for the Phillies, who had won a season-best four in a row.

Houston starter José Urquidy (2-2) allowed three hits and two runs before leaving with an apparent injury with one out in the sixth.

Bailey Falter (0-5) yielded eight hits and four runs in 4 1/3 innings.

## PADRES 6, GIANTS 4 MEXICO CITY (AP)—

Matt Carpenter capped an eighth-inning rally with a tiebreaking, two-run double off the glove of diving center fielder Mike Yastrzemski, and San Diego beat San Francisco for a two-game sweep of Major League Baseball's first regular-season series in Mexico City.

A day after winning an 11-home run slugfest 16-11, the Padres overcame a 4-0 deficit with three runs in the fifth and three in the eighth.

In the thin air of Estadio Alfredo Harp Helú, 7,349 feet above sea level, Lamonte Wade Jr. led off the first inning with a home run against Yu Darvish.

J.D. Davis went deep in the second and Mitch Haniger homered in a two-run third that included an RBI single by Yastrzemski, who is headed to the injured list.

Before a crowd of 19,633, Austin Nola's two-run homer and Juan Soto's RBI single against Alex Cobb cut the def-

icit to 4-3 in the fifth.

Luis García (1-2) pitched two hitless innings and Josh Hader got three straight groundouts to remain perfect in 10 save chances.

Tyler Rogers (0-2) lost for the second straight day.

## DODGERS 6, CARDINALS 3 LOS ANGELES (AP)—

Noah Syndergaard earned his first win in a Dodgers uniform and Los Angeles got some timely hits and took advantage of mistakes by St. Louis pitchers for the win.

David Peralta drove in two runs for the Dodgers. Syndergaard (1-3) allowed three runs on eight hits in 5 1/3 innings.

At 10-19, the Cardinals are 10 games behind Pittsburgh in the NL Central—that's the first time since 1907 that St. Louis is in this spot at the end of April, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

The game was tied at 3 in the fifth inning when Will Smith led off with a double before Zack Thompson (1-2) walked Max Muncy and Jason Heyward to load the bases. After James Outman struck out, Drew VerHagen came on and threw a wild pitch on a sweeper with a 2-2 count to score Smith.

Evan Phillips worked a scoreless ninth for his third save.

## NATIONALS 7, PIRATES 2 WASHINGTON (AP)—

Joey Gray pitched six strong innings, Joey Meneses had four hits and Washington finally cooled off Pittsburgh in a game delayed nearly 2 1/2 hours by rain.

Jeimer Candelario and Victor Robles each had an early two-run double for Washington, Luis García delivered a

two-run single in the second, and every Nationals starter got at least one hit.

Bryan Reynolds and Tucupita Marcano each had two hits and an RBI for the Pirates, who finished April with a 20-9 record.

Gray (2-4) allowed one run on three hits and three walks while striking out six. Andrés Machado worked two scoreless innings for Washington, and Kyle Finnegan allowed a run in the ninth.

Pirates starter Johan Oviedo (2-2) gave up seven runs and nine hits in 2 1/3 innings.

## MARINERS 10, BLUE JAYS 8, 10 INNINGS TORONTO (AP)—

Cal Raleigh hit two of Seattle's four home runs, including a tiebreaking shot in the 10th inning, to rally the team past Toronto and snap a four-game losing streak.

Toronto was one strike away from completing a three-game sweep and extending its winning streak to seven, but Mariners shortstop J.P. Crawford hit a game-tying single off Yimi Garcia in the ninth.

Raleigh won it with a two-run shot off Zach Pop (1-1), scoring automatic runner Eugenio Suárez. It was the third multi-homer game of Raleigh's career. He also hit a two-run homer off Anthony Bass in the eighth.

Paul Sewald (2-0) worked one inning for the win and Matt Brash pitched the 10th for his first save in three chances.

## MARLINS 4, CUBS 3 MIAMI (AP)—

Luis Arraez hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the eighth inning to give Miami the three-game series sweep over Chicago.

Jon Berti drew a leadoff walk against reliever Keegan Thompson (1-1) and advanced to third on Jesús Sánchez's

single. Arraez then drove the first pitch from Thompson to deep center to score Berti.

Tanner Scott (2-1) pitched a scoreless eighth around two singles and A.J. Puk closed with a perfect ninth for his fifth save. Garrett Thompson doubled twice for the Marlins, who won their fourth straight.

Chicago's Nico Hoerner singled in the seventh, extending his consecutive games on base streak to 25. Justin Steele limited Miami to three runs and seven hits in six innings. It ended the left-hander's string of 12 consecutive starts of allowing two runs or fewer dating back to July 20, 2022.

## RED SOX 7, GUARDIANS 1 BOSTON (AP)—

Connor Wong hit a two-run homer and Alex Verdugo singled home a pair of runs and added a late solo homer to help Boston top Cleveland.

Chris Sale (2-2) struck out five, holding the Guardians to three hits over 6 1/3 innings. Christian Arroyo added a two-run double during a three-run seventh that sealed it for the Red Sox, who overcame a strong start by rookie Logan Allen (1-1) and piled on late runs against Guardians relievers.

Amed Rosario drove in Cleveland's only run with a single in the sixth inning, one of just four hits for the Guardians.

Sale took a shutout into the sixth before Steven Kwan led off with a double and scored on Rosario's single. Sale later got an out in the seventh inning for the first time since Aug. 8, 2019.

## TWINS 8, ROYALS 4 MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—

Byron Buxton hit a three-run homer as part of a seven-run third inning and Sonny Gray kept rolling with six strong

innings in Minnesota's win over Kansas City.

Gray (4-0) allowed one run on five hits while striking out seven batters. Gray has given up just three runs in 35 innings this season and saw his MLB-best ERA rise to 0.77 after the outing. Jhoan Duran recorded his sixth save.

Brady Singer (2-3) lasted just 2 2/3 innings for the Royals, surrendering eight runs on five hits and three walks. Vinnie Pasquantino had three hits for Kansas City.

## WHITE SOX 12, RAYS 9 CHICAGO (AP)—

Andrew Vaughn capped Chicago's seven-run ninth inning with a three-run homer to help the White Sox stop a 10-game losing streak with a wild victory over Tampa Bay.

Yasmani Grandal also homered and Adam Haseley had four hits as Chicago won for the first time April 18. It was the longest slide for the team since it also dropped 10 in a row in 2013.

Jake Burger sparked the winning rally with a one-out RBI double against Jalen Beeks (0-2). Oscar Colás then hit a sacrifice fly and Elvis Andrus made it 9-8 with a run-scoring single.

After Lenyn Sosa's single, Beeks was replaced by Garrett Cleavinger. But Haseley greeted Cleavinger with a tying single and Vaughn followed with his third homer of the season, a drive to left field that led to a big celebration at home plate.

Aaron Bummer (1-1) got the win after he allowed two runs in the top of the ninth.

## ORIOLES 5, TIGERS 3 DETROIT (AP)—

Adam Frazier homered in the fourth inning to help Baltimore take a four-run lead, and Yennier Cano made sure the Orioles held on against Detroit.

Baltimore has won six straight series for the first time since 2014. The Orioles scored one run in four consecutive innings, taking a 4-0 lead in the fifth before Detroit scored three in the home half.

Baltimore's bullpen combined to pitch 4 1/3 innings of scoreless relief. Austin Voth (1-1) worked two hitless innings and Cano earned his second save. He has not allowed a hit in 32 at-bats this season.

Baltimore's Kyle Bradish started strong, retiring nine of the first 10 Tigers he faced and holding them scoreless through four innings. He was chased after giving up three runs in the fifth.

Spencer Turnbull (1-4) gave up three runs—two earned—in four innings.

## RANGERS 15, ANKEES 2 ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—

Josh Jung hit a first-inning grand slam, Nathaniel Lowe and Adolis García also homered off All-Star Nestor Cortes and Texas routed New York to hand the Yankees their sixth loss in eight games.

Cortes (3-2) had the worst outing of his Yankees career, allowing seven runs and five hits in 4 2/3 innings along with four of New York's eight walks.

Fellow All-Star Martín Pérez (4-1) gave up one run and six hits in six innings for Texas, which has won three straight following a four-game losing streak. Jung tied his career high with five RBIs.

## ROCKIES 12, DIAMONDBACKS 4 DENVER (AP)—

C.J. Cron had three hits, including a three-run homer, Austin Gomber gave up one run over six innings and Colorado beat Arizona to snap a seven-game home losing streak.

The last-place Rockies also avoided tying the worst 29-game start in franchise history.

Cron's team-leading sixth home run of the season was the catalyst for a four-run third inning that gave Colorado the lead and broke the game open.

Gomber (2-4) threw his second consecutive quality start, allowing only three hits and striking out four. Charlie Blackmon's run on Cron's third-inning homer moved him past Larry Walker for sole possession of second place on the franchise's all-time list.

Evan Longoria's 463-foot home run in the second inning was the only source of offense for much of the day for the Diamondbacks. Arizona starter Ryne Nelson (1-2) pitched just four innings, allowing six runs and nine hits.

## ATHLETICS 5, REDS 4 OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—

Esteury Ruiz singled in the winning run in the bottom of the ninth inning and Oakland beat Cincinnati to halt its nine-game home losing streak.

Jesús Aguilar and Brent Rooker homered for the Athletics. The victory prevented Oakland (6-23) from having the worst 29-game start to a season since the 2003 Detroit Tigers opened 4-25.

The crowd of 18,271 was Oakland's largest since 26,805 on opening day.

Zach Jackson (2-1) pitched out of big trouble in the ninth for the A's. Derek Law (0-4) took the loss.



# JSN drubs Double A; Ol'Aces remains perfect

By MARK RABAGO

mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

JSN Enterprises collected just its second win in the masters division, while Martech Ol'Aces remained perfect in the open division of the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League last Saturday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

In the first game, JSN Enterprises improved to 2-2 after routing Double A Corp., 74-57.

It was tight in the first half with the eventual victors settling for leads of 14-11 and 32-27 in the first and second quarters, respectively.

JSN Enterprises eventually made their move come the third, as they separated themselves by taking a 53-42 spread after the three quarters of play before cruising to the

17-point win.

High-flying Reymond Santos led the way for JSN Enterprises with 24 points, while Jawn Joyner added 14 of his own.

Oliver Rivera paced Double A Corp. with 15 markers in the team's fourth loss in five tries.

In the second game, Martech Ol'Aces zoomed to its seventh straight win against no loss after chomping on Puerto Rico Bento, 82-66.

The Oleai team blazed the court from the get-go after opening with a 23-9 advantage after the first 10 minutes.

They would maintain that lead throughout the contest and were led by the balanced scoring of Douglas Schmidt, Kelvin Fitial, and Preston Basa who scored at least 12 points apiece.

Coby Santos fired 26 points to lead Puerto Rico Bento, which dropped to 4-3 in the standings.

Only two games were com-

JSN Enterprises' Reymond Santos goes airborne against Double A Corp.'s Bryan Lontoc, left, and Oliver Rivera in the masters division of the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League last Saturday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.



pleted the previous playdates with Ali'i (5-2) nipping JTM Saipan (5-2), 82-78, in the open division last Thursday and Blue Eagle (3-3) doing a number on RNV Construction (0-5) in the masters division last Friday.

## First Game

**JSN Enterprises 74** – Santos 24, Joyner 14, Ocampo 9, Wesley 8, Zapata 6, Agbanlog 6, Samson 5, Alano 2.

**Double A Corp. 57** – Rivera 15, Lumanlan 19, Catalla 8, Jugos 6, Lontoc 6, Pablo 4, Tolentino 4, Sangoyo 3.

**Scoring by quarters:** 14-11, 32-27, 53-41, 74-57.

## Second Game

**Martech Ol'Aces 82** – Schmidt 17, Fitial 15, Basa 12, Diaz 7, Rangamar 7, Brungard 6, Atan 5, Kabiriel 5, Barcinas 4, Saoni 2, Onopwy 2.

**Puerto Rico Bento 66** – Santos 26, Foronda 16, Mintac 10, Bayking 8, Estimado 3, Galang 3.

**Scoring by quarters:** 23-9, 39-26, 63-49, 82-66.

By LEIGH GASES

leigh\_gases@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Nokki Saralu from the Cardinals is atop the batting leaders list, while Jason Reyes from the SPC Survivors is the pitching leader as of last Friday, April 29, in the 2023 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League.

Saralu, of so far the undefeated Cardinals, has the highest batting average at .625 from 10 hits out of 16 at-bats.

He also tops the most runs scored with 11 and also has the most triples with two.

Behind him in the batting leaders category is the Jr. Nationals' J.R. Suel with a .600 average from six hits out of 10 at-bats. Third is Jylon

Sablan also from the Jr. Nationals at .545 from six out 11 at-bats.

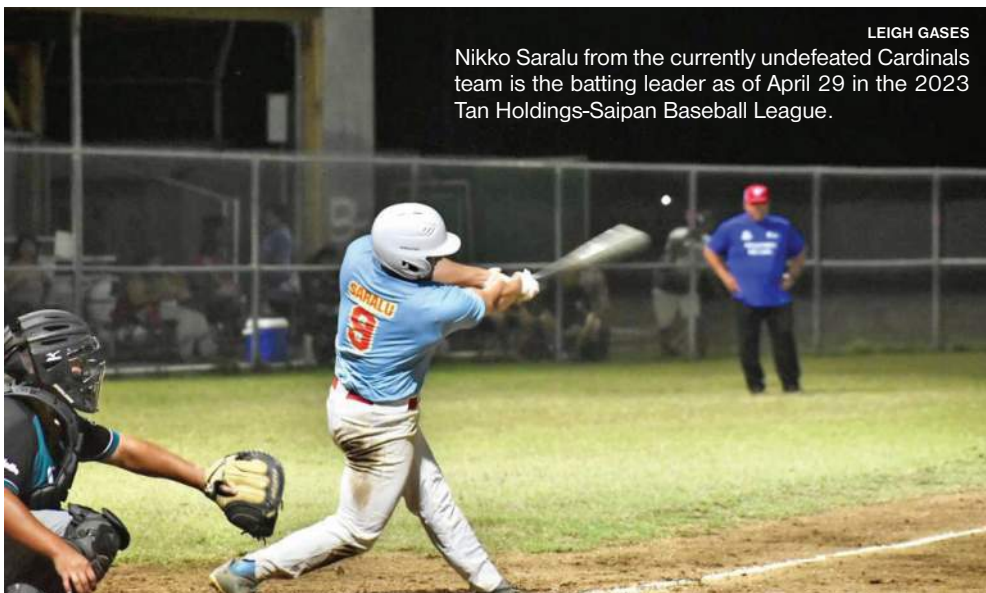
Second to Saralu in the runs scored column are teammates Eli Aughenbaugh and Shane Yamada with seven each; Cameron Towai and Perry Celis both have six; while six others are tied with five each.



Brian Camacho, Eli Aughenbaugh, Harry Nakamura, Jobe Reyes, Kimo Angailan, J-Boy Mendiola, Ben Leon Guerrero, and Jordan Suel all have one triple each after Saralu.

In the doubles column, Jr. Suel and Poland Masaharu lead with three; Andrew Camacho, Byron Kaipat, Jose Lizama, Yamada, Brian Camacho, and Saralu all

## Nokki Saralu, Jason Reyes among SBL leaders



LEIGH GASES  
Nikko Saralu from the currently undefeated Cardinals team is the batting leader as of April 29 in the 2023 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League.

have two each.

Only one home run has

been made so far this season and it was by Henry Lizama.

The most RBIs is eight by Masaharu, followed by Giovanni Mira, Nate Camacho, and Saralu with six; Brian Camacho has five; and Nakamura, Jerald Cabrera, and Yamada have four each.

## UMANGS

From Page 20

ray Indalecio from KagES at 16.55 seconds.

The 12U boys 100m was the same Top 3 as the 12U boys 60m—Ben Hossain with 14.26; Juan Caraballo at 14.61; and Conan Iakopo at 14.92 seconds.

Dean Aldan once again topped the 9U boys 400m. Second was Eumond Peter

of OES at 1:22.51; and Ezra West from SIS came in third at 1:23.19.

In the 12U boys softball throw, Logan Daniel threw the farthest at 39.86m; teammate Napu Pangelinan was second at 36.79m; and third was Niziah Dela Cruz from TES at 35.1m.

Francis Mendiola, the Umangs coach, said that their overall win was surprising. "They worked hard for it. It was one month of learn-

ing how to run fast, just running, so I'm just happy that they performed well."

He said their strengths this season were definitely the short distance sprints and Mendiola said they now know what to work on in the longer distances for next season.

Most of the boys in his team are soccer and basketball players so Mendiola was happy that their team pulled through on top. He then

thanked the Public School System, PSS Athletic Program director Nick Gross, and Northern Marianas Athletics for having the event again after a long hiatus due to the pandemic.

This tournament concludes the elementary school 2022-2023 sports season.

This Friday and Saturday is the middle school PSS/McDonald's All Schools Athletics 2022-2023 championships round.

## SHERLYN

From Page 20

nament with net scores of 148 and 151, respectively. Togawa actually beat Sae Hee Kim via another scorecard tiebreaker.

Others who competed, with their net scores in parenthesis,

were Eunae Sophia Jang (153), Dol Yamagishi (157), Euan Ae Clara Chang (161), Mio Kim (166), Terry Guerrero (167), Lorraine Babauta (168), and Nirimai Koebel (171).

CWGA would like to thank the following for sponsoring their 2023 CWGA Annual Tournament—Marpac, Hy-

att Regency Saipan, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, Country House, Wushin Corp., McDonald's Saipan and Guam, Takagi Insurance, Top Shelf Wine & Spirits Saipan, Kuriya Restaurant, Himawari Restaurant, Takumi Restaurant, Tasi Tours, Chunji Restaurant, and Boss Karaoke.

The club continues to look for new members as the new season unfolds. For those interested in becoming a member of CWGA or for more information, contact CWGA president Yuko Togawa at 287-9856, vice president Lorraine Babauta at 287-0621, or treasurer Lou Kim at 783-7317.

## GECKOS

From Page 20

the court.

The passing game by the Knights allowed an evenly distributed amount of points to almost each player, but Leighton Tenorio stood out with two 3-pointers and gave the Geckos a run for their money.

When SIS' Aiden Camacho found his shots that complemented Iakopo's, they went bounding into the lead as the Knights' offense began to falter.

In what began as a close game ended in a 10-point win for the Geckos.

In other results that day,

Saipan Community School defeated Grace Christian Academy, 31-11; Francisco M. Sablan Middle School overpowered Agape Christian School, 41-25; and Hopwood Middle School defeated a fatigued SCS in a close 24-22 game.

In the junior varsity games, FMS defeated HMS, 28-25; and DMS won a lopsided 57-9 game.

**SIS 34** – Moshe Sikkil 10, Iakopo 10, Camacho 8, T. Joab 5, D. Joab 4.

**MCS 24** – Tenorio 6, Niric 4, Torres 4, Matsumoto, Mal-lari 3, Pineda 3, Tomokane 1.

**Scoring by halves:** 17-12, 38-30.





Butler, Heat start  
2nd round with  
108-101 win over  
Knicks.  
**PAGE 17**

# Saipan Tribune Sports

JSN drubs Double  
A; Ol'Aces remains  
perfect.

**PAGE 19**



**20** TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

By **MARK RABAGO**  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Sherlyn Jones improved on her runner-up finish last year by going all the way in this year's CNMI Women's Golf Association's season-ending, two-day CWGA Annual Tournament held last April 15 and 16 at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

## Sherlyn Jones wins CWGA Annual Tournament

The Marianas Health, LLC staff nipped runner-up Hyun "Sunny" Son via scorecard tiebreaker after both monthly winners fired two-day totals of net 138.

Jones came away with a 138 following a net 81 on Day 1 and a net 85 on Day 2 for a gross of 166. Minus her 28 handicap, she posted a best two-day net total.

Son finished with a 138 af-

ter shooting identical 84s in both rounds for a gross of 168 for the 30-handicapper.

Last year's champion, Flor Jones, took third place after shooting a net 139 built around a gross of 175.

She scored a gross 88 (net 68) on the first round then followed it up with a gross of 87 (net 67) on the second.



Jones

Aside from an entire season's bragging rights, Sherlyn Jones also won a championship trophy, a spanking new golf bag, and a gift certificate.

Asked what her secret was in winning this year, Jones said it was staying positive, focusing on the game, and just enjoying the beautiful scenery at the

Laolao Bay golf course

"My putting was really good and I was able to focus on the greens and with a mind-set of making two-putts at the most. Both days were actually hot and windy. The fairways were kind of dry but I just concentrated on what I can control in the course. Sometimes overthinking creates tension so I just kept myself relaxed and enjoyed the game," said

Jones of what she did to win the two-day CWGA Annual Tournament.

She then dedicated her win to all CWGA members.

"I knew some of them just gave me a chance. I thank you all very much. This will be my last year with them. I wish you all the best. God bless," said Jones.

Rose Rohringer and Yuko Togawa completed the Top 5 of the CWGA Annual Tour-

**See SHERLYN on Page 19**

# Umangs sprint to boys athletics champs



Koblerville Elementary School boys won the boys division of the PSS/McDonald's All Schools Athletics 2022-2023 championships in a two-day tourney last Friday and Saturday morning at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By **LEIGH GASES**  
leigh\_gases@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**T**he Koblerville Elementary School boys sprinted to the finish in the PSS/McDonald's All Schools Athletics 2022-2023 championships last Friday night and Saturday morning at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.



The Umangs accumulated the most points with 91 over the course of the qualifiers and the championship rounds.

Behind them are the boys of Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School with 74 points; Saipan International School with 61; Tinian Elementary School had 60; Kagman Elementary School collected 46; William S. Reyes Elementary School had 45; Agape Christian School got 40; Oleai Elementary School

had 38; Sinapalo Elementary School collected 28; Brilliant Star School came out with 17; Garapan Elementary School had 15; Grace Christian Academy had 10; and San Vicente Elementary School had 2.

In the championship rounds on Friday, the Umangs dominated the short distance 60m, 100m, and 400m sprinting events, along with the softball

throw event.

The 12U boys 60m was topped by Ben Hossain at 8.58; second to him was Juan Caraballo of KagES at 8.76; and third was Conan Iakopo from GTC at 8.92 seconds.

Dean Aldan came in first in the 9U boys 100m; second was Kintinio Eleislar of GTC at 16.28; and third was Davi-

**See UMANGS on Page 19**



Elementary school boys division runners sprint out of from the starting line during Day 1 of the PSS/McDonald's All Schools Athletics 2022-2023 championships last Friday at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.

LAO ZHANG

## Geckos leap to hoops win, 39-24

By **LEIGH GASES**  
leigh\_gases@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Saipan International School Geckos leaped to their sixth win in the IT&E Interscholastic Boys Middle School Basketball League 2022-2023 last Wednesday night at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

They defeated Mount Carmel School, 39-24, in an evenly matched game early on, but the Geckos pulled out all the stops in the second half to bring home the win.

From the jump ball, it was clear it was going to be an aggressive game from both ends. They took turns at the basket, with each successful attempt met by cheers from the crowd. The score

stayed close in the first half as neither team were unable to pull ahead by more than a point of two.

A terrific trio of Daniel Joab, Moshe Sikkell, and Theo Joab took turns scoring for the Geckos and ended the first half with a total of 13 points—with 2 points snuck in by Audiescott Iakopo.

The Geckos were up by only 2 points heading into the second half, 15-13, as the Knights' James Matsumoto and Justin Mallari both had a visit to 3-point country to creep up to the Geckos.

As the second half began, it was still anybody's game with the lead exchanging hands as fast as they could whizz back and forth down

**See GECKOS on Page 19**



LEIGH GASES

Saipan International School's Aiden Camacho leaps for the shot against Mount Carmel School in their game in the IT&E Interscholastic Boys Middle School Basketball League 2022-2023 last Wednesday night at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.